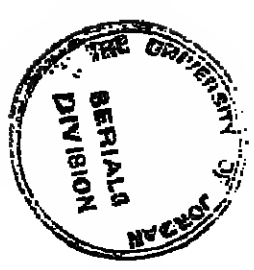


هنا من الوطن



U.N.: Gulf oil spill exaggerated

BAHRAIN (R) — The amount of oil spilled into the Gulf during the war was grossly exaggerated, a senior U.N. official said Wednesday. Adel Orabi, director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for West Asia, said U.N. experts had concluded that no more than 500,000 barrels of crude spilled into the waterway during the six-week conflict. This was only a fraction of initial estimates of up to 11 million barrels. Most environmental experts sent to assess the impact of the spilled oil — dubbed "the world's biggest slick" — have put the amount at six to eight million barrels. "In general all the estimates for the Gulf war pollution were exaggerated. The total amount of oil spilled did not exceed half a million barrels," Mr. Orabi said. The U.S.-led coalition which ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait last February accused Iraq of deliberately spilling crude. Iraq blamed allied bombing raids on its tankers and oil terminals. Most of the oil hit Saudi Arabia's northeast coast, devastating around 700 kilometres of its beaches. Mr. Orabi said he did not think it was a mistake to clean up the Saudi coast without assessing possible adverse effects.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

3 escape from Gaza Strip court

GAZA (R) — Three Palestinian prisoners escaped from an Israeli military court in the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Palestinians said. They said the prisoners were on trial inside the heavily guarded compound on charges stemming from the four-year-old Palestinian uprising. Israeli military sources confirmed the incident, one of only a handful of known escapes during the revolt, but gave no details. The army sealed off the area and began a manhunt. Six prisoners broke out of a military prison in Gaza in 1987. Four were later killed in a clash with Israeli forces, increasing the tension that erupted into the Palestinian revolt. In the occupied West Bank, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians during clashes in the town of Jenin, witnesses said. A Palestinian said the troops opened fire after young men stoned soldiers escorting tax collectors carrying out raids on shops.

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Israeli, allies shell S. Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled South Lebanon villages after guerrilla bombs wounded two Israeli soldiers, security sources said on Wednesday. About 30 heavy artillery shells hit the village of Majdel Salm, at the western tip of the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone." Three shells slammed into the village of Qabirha during the sporadic overnight bombardment which continued Wednesday morning, the sources added. There were no reports of casualties in the retaliatory fire which also involved tanks and heavy machine guns.

Turkey: Arms ship, Iran ties unrelated

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Wednesday it saw no link between its relations with Tehran and a shipload of Iranian arms seized last month. "When the ship was seized Turkey had no idea that the arms belonged to Iran. We oppose forging a link between this incident and Turkish-Iranian relations," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Filiz Dincmen said. Turkish authorities, acting on a tip-off, stopped the Cypriot freighter Cape Males as it sailed through the Bosphorus Strait on October 22 and found it laden with undeclared arms. Turkish officials said ship's documents showed no owner or destination for the arms. Tehran later said the cargo belonged to Iran. Iran's official IRNA news agency said Monday that Turkey had "illegally" seized the vessel and that the move raised questions about plans to ship Iranian oil and natural gas to Europe across Turkey.

Maxwell heart test to follow autopsy

MADRID (R) — The head of a pathology institute conducting forensic tests on the body of British media tycoon Robert Maxwell said Wednesday tests for traces of a heart drug would continue after formal release of autopsy results. "We will issue the report, then we will add some further details later," director Manuel Sanchez told Reuters. "We are going to do some tests on (heart drug) amphetamine, but it is not available in Spain and we are waiting for a sample to arrive from England," he said. Asked why the test was being carried out even though Mr. Maxwell was not known to have a heart complaint, Sanchez said: "It is one of the theories that has come up." Carlos Lopez de Lamela, director of the Las Palmas forensic institute, told reporters late Tuesday he would collect the autopsy report on Thursday and return to the Canary Islands.

Iraqi opposition to meet in Iraq soon

ALGIERS (R) — Iraqi opposition groups plan to meet inside Iraq soon to step up their campaign against President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi Communist Party leader said Wednesday. "The joint action committee will meet soon inside Iraq to prepare the way for the removal of the regime... Saddam cannot last much longer and the Americans who helped him quell the rebellion last March are now looking for a new man," party leader Adel Abba told a news conference in Algiers. The committee groups the Shiite Muslim opposition, Communists, Kurdish groups, and dissidents from the ruling Baath Party.

Zambia to restore relations with Israel

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Zambian Foreign Minister Vernon J. Mwaanga said Tuesday his country's new government would reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel, broken off in 1973, but stressed that support for the Palestinians would remain unshaken. He told a news conference three would be continuity in Zambia's foreign policy but with some change in perspectives. "We have decided, for example, that we will reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel which were broken in 1973 after Israel attacked an African country, Egypt, and occupied the Sinai Desert," he said.

U.S. refuses to budge on date for Mideast talks

Take it or leave it, Washington says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States, reacting to Israel's refusal to attend Middle East peace talks on Dec. 4, said Wednesday it could not change its proposal and would have facilities for the negotiations ready on that date. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the venue would be ready and open, available to those Middle East parties that wanted to use it, from Dec. 4 onwards. Ms. Tutwiler said that since Lebanon and Jordan had already accepted the Dec. 4 date proposed by the United States it would be inappropriate to change it. Syria and the Palestinians have indicated they were ready to come to Washington in principle but have not transmitted official responses. "We will have the negotiation facilities ready and open on Dec. 4. They will be available on dates after Dec. 4. We ask those parties that have not already responded to let us know when they plan to arrive and to start the negotiations," Ms. Tutwiler said.

She reiterated that the United States was not willing to discuss pre-conditions either from Israel or Arabs about the negotiations. In a carefully-worded statement, Ms. Tutwiler appeared anxious to head off a full-scale confrontation with Israel. She said the United States was "delighted" that the Israelis had accepted the principle of holding talks in Washington. The Israeli inner cabinet said it would send negotiators to begin talks from Dec. 9 rather than Dec. 4 but still insisted that the talks be shifted to the Middle East after that. It also imposed a string of other conditions. "Israel is ready to hold a meeting or two in Washington so that later negotiations will take place in the region or near it," said Ehud Gol, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "We have repeatedly explained at all levels that for the negotiations to be effective they must be in the region," the government spokesman said in a statement following a meeting of the inner cabinet.

Ms. Tutwiler said it was important to put procedural wrangling aside so that the parties could get on with negotiations, adjourning after the Middle East peace conference in Madrid. "We think that it is very important that we, to be candid, get on with it," she said. The United States would try, through diplomatic channels, to resolve the issue of the date, she added. Israel proposed that separate talks with each of the Arab delegations — Syria, Lebanon and a Jordanian-Palestinian joint team — start on Dec. 9, with four or five days between each meeting. The Israeli position appeared to conform to previous government statements that it wanted to talk in Washington only about procedural matters, with the substance of peace issues taken up in subsequent sessions in the Middle East. Only Jordan and Lebanon have unreservedly accepted the U.S. cabinet.

Jordan regrets Israeli stand, will proceed as scheduled

By Caroline Farraj
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday regretted Israel's rejection of the American invitation to resume Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington on Dec. 4, but said it would not allow the Israeli position to undermine the peace process. Foreign Minister Kamel Abn Jaber expressed regret over Israel's rejection of the American invitation and the Jewish state's demand that the talks be held on Dec. 9 and later moved to the Middle East. The chief Jordanian negotiator, Abdul Salam Majali, said that Jordan, which has accepted the American invitation, was sending its delegation to the U.S. capital as scheduled. "In all circumstances we will continue the peace process hoping that this Israeli stand is not a manoeuvre to bring the talks to a failure," Dr. Abn Jaber told Radio Jordan in an interview. "We hope that the spirit (of the

Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid on Oct. 30) will not be quashed and no obstacles will be placed in the way of peace," the foreign minister said. Israeli spokesman, citing a Jewish holiday, said earlier Wednesday that the Jewish state was not willing to accept Dec. 4 as the date for the bilateral talks with the Arabs and suggested Dec. 9, but demanded that the negotiations should be moved quickly to the Middle East. His Majesty King Hussein said in the British radio interview Monday that it was psychologically and practically impossible to hold the talks in the Middle East. The venue for bilaterals has been a contentious issue since the Madrid conference with Israel insisting that the talks rotate between the Jewish state and the concerned Arab countries and the Arab states rejecting the Israeli demand but accepting any neutral site. Dr. Majali, head of the Jordanian negotiating team in the joint

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, noted that Jordan had accepted the American invitation and said: "We, the Jordanian delegation, are going ahead as scheduled on the scheduled time to the agreed upon place." In a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Rai, Dr. Majali said the Jordanian delegation was leaving for Washington on Monday. Members of the Palestinian team in the joint delegation said they had scheduled a meeting Thursday to determine their course of action. Members of the Jordanian delegation are also expected to meet the Palestinian team for coordination talks Thursday. Dr. Majali affirmed that Jordan was committed to the agreement made in Madrid that the talks with Israel will be held on two tracks — Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli — in two separate places and not in a joint

New elements influence race for speakership after Nabulsi entry

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Next week's election for the position of speaker of the Lower House of Parliament promises to be the most contested since the 1989 election, as a fourth candidate stepped into the race only three days before Parliament begins its regular session. The number of contenders for the position of speaker of the House reached an all-time high after the Democratic Bloc decided to field Deputy Faris Nabulsi as its candidate. It became clear Wednesday that an unofficial agreement between the Democratic Bloc and National Bloc candidate Saleem Arar had played a decisive role in Mr. Nabulsi's decision to run. According to one member of the Democratic Bloc Mr. Arar had said he would pull out of the race in favour of a Democratic Bloc candidate if he chose to field a candidate, said one member of the bloc. "Arar cannot pull out of the race unless his bloc supports this decision," said Faris Tarawneh, a Democratic Bloc deputy hours before the National Bloc Wednesday voted to keep Mr. Arar in the race. "The members of my bloc insisted that I run for the speakership," Mr. Arar said after a two-hour meeting, admitting that he had been willing to step down in favour of Mr. Nabulsi.



Faris Nabulsi
Mr. Arar, who first served as speaker of the House in 1989, said the independent Islamic Bloc, a coalition of six deputies, would support him. The Islamic Bloc, however, denied that it had decided whom it would support. "We have not yet made a decision," said Islamic deputy Awmi Bashir. "During the first (1989) elections for speakership we supported Saleem Arar because he committed himself to appointing one of our members, Atef Roush, as first deputy speaker," Mr. Bashir said. During the second term the independent Islamic bloc supported Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat because the Brotherhood had nominated and later appointed Jamal Sarraeh — at that time an Islamic Bloc member — as first

deputy. "During this election we have not been offered a position of first deputy," Mr. Bashir said after confirming that his bloc would hold a decisive meeting Thursday. The nine-member Democratic Bloc is expected to decide Thursday if they will keep Mr. Nabulsi, in Saturday's race. So far the 18-member Constitution Bloc has said it would not pull out their candidate, Abdul Majed Shureidh. "No matter what happens or how many people run for the post of speaker we will not pull out our candidate," said Deputy Mohammad Abu Olein, a member of the Constitution Bloc. Dr. Arabiyat, the incumbent, is also one of the candidates. While the race promises to be heated, its politics may involve more personal politics than political positions. The Muslim Brotherhood and the Democratic Bloc are both based on popular political movements in Jordan while the other two blocs are a conglomeration of individual political figures. There are no popular grassroots movements which support either the Constitution or National blocs in Parliament. The only votes secured to each candidate at this point are those of his bloc's members. The Muslim Brotherhood is the largest bloc in the Lower House with 22 members, followed by the Constitution Bloc which has 18 members, the National Bloc which now has 16 members and the Democratic Bloc which has nine.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday rides through the street of Ramtha (Petra photo)

Ramtha residents accord rousing welcome to King

King opens new faculties' complex at JUST

RAMTHA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited the northern town of Ramtha near the Syrian border and was greeted with a tumultuous welcome by the town's residents who turned out en masse to cheer him as he passed through the streets. Streets were bedecked with flags, the King's portraits and other decorative signs. The general feelings of the town were expressed by its mayor, Fawwaz Al Zoubi, who delivered a speech at a public rally held to welcome the King. Local folkloric troupes held national dances in the main square through which the Royal motorcade passed. King Hussein later opened the premises of the medical faculties at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). These include the faculties of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, public health and sciences. The complex includes laboratories, libraries, an auditorium seating 650 people as well as lecture halls and other facilities. The buildings, which were set up on a 97,000-square-metre plot, cost nearly JD 14 million. King Hussein cut the tape for the activation of a special train which travels through the campus carrying teachers, administrators and students from one faculty to another. It was an old train which was maintained and refurbished to serve this purpose. The students gave a warm welcome to the King who later opened an exhibition displaying the work of the engineering workshops that produced laboratory equipment among other items. At a meeting with the council of deans, the King expressed Jordan's pride in the university and its achievements. He expressed hope that the staff would pursue their serious efforts and serve their nation. JUST President Kamel Ajlouni delivered an address outlining the university's development. During a meeting with students, the King said that Jordan was striving to become an exemplary model for the Arab World. The King listened to the students' suggestions and requests and promised that JUST will soon have its medical training hospital.

Ramtha in an open convertible while cheering residents waved flags and chanted slogans praising him. Local folkloric troupes held national dances in the main square through which the Royal motorcade passed. King Hussein later opened the premises of the medical faculties at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). These include the faculties of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, public health and sciences. The complex includes laboratories, libraries, an auditorium seating 650 people as well as lecture halls and other facilities. The buildings, which were set up on a 97,000-square-metre plot, cost nearly JD 14 million. King Hussein cut the tape for the activation of a special train which travels through the campus carrying teachers, administrators and students from one faculty to another. It was an old train which was maintained and refurbished to serve this purpose. The students gave a warm welcome to the King who later opened an exhibition displaying the work of the engineering workshops that produced laboratory equipment among other items. At a meeting with the council of deans, the King expressed Jordan's pride in the university and its achievements. He expressed hope that the staff would pursue their serious efforts and serve their nation. JUST President Kamel Ajlouni delivered an address outlining the university's development. During a meeting with students, the King said that Jordan was striving to become an exemplary model for the Arab World. The King listened to the students' suggestions and requests and promised that JUST will soon have its medical training hospital.

Abdul Shafi: Israel is stalling

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chief Palestinian delegate to the Middle East peace talks denounced Israel Wednesday for stalling over acceptance of Washington as venue for resumed negotiations next week. "This is frustrating. I don't see the validity of this," Haidy Abdul Shafi was quoted as saying by Reuters. "Really I think they are just stalling. What is there to do if they are unable to make a decision." Israel Wednesday rejected the U.S. invitation to resume the talks on Dec. 4, saying it needed more discussions with the Americans. Jordan and Lebanon are the only participants so far to have accepted the U.S. proposal. The Palestinians have agreed in principle to attend but want assurances that advisers to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will have access to the talks. Reports from Israel said the Jewish state would ask to delay the Washington talks until after the Jewish festival of Hanukkah ended on Dec. 9. In a challenge to U.S. statements rejecting any conditions, sources quoted in the reports said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would demand the talks be quickly shifted to a Middle East venue. Diplomats in Washington said the United States in its invitations to the talks had suggested Israeli territorial compromise with Syria on the Golan Heights and had put forward ideas on how talks on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should proceed. "Really the Americans are not forcing anything on anybody. They were just making very brief suggestions that are not obliging anybody to take any action," Dr. Abdul Shafi said when asked about the invitation letters. He declined to say whether the Palestinians might reconsider their acceptance in principle to attend the talks if they were delayed. Other members of the Palestinian delegation had been due to arrive in Jordan Thursday for coordination talks with the Jordanians before leaving for Washington Monday. Dr. Abdul Shafi said the Israelis were acting in the same way as they did at the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last month. Dr. Abdul Shafi, who heads the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, visited Damascus Tuesday for talks with senior Syrian officials. Dr. Abdul Shafi told Jordan Tele-

Iraqi minister denies reports that Baghdad is exporting oil products

VIENNA (Agencies) — Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti denied Wednesday Baghdad was quietly exporting small amounts of refined oil products in defiance of a U.N. trade embargo. Reports said earlier this week Iraq was selling the products, probably diesel and kerosene, to Lebanon and Turkey to help pay for food in the face of the sanctions and frozen foreign assets. According to the reports, attributed to unidentified "diplomatic" sources, the oil was being exported in tankers on the 1,000-kilometre road into Jordan and then on to Lebanon through Syria, a member of the Western Arab coalition which drove Iraq from Kuwait in February. They said small quantities of the same kind of products were also being sent by road to Turkey. Asked about the report while in Vienna for a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mr. Hiti said: "No. That was false."

"It is not something which you can hide and the reports that you have heard that say you can see tankers with Lebanese licence plates is false because we have to go through Syria and I am sure neither Syria nor Jordan would accept that," he said. "There are some trucks which enter Iraq and are filled at gasoline stations. This is quite normal. But we are not sending tankers to either Lebanon or Turkey. We are not selling products either to Lebanon or Turkey."

Although the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution in August allowing Iraq to export up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil and oil products over a six-month period to buy food and other civilian necessities, Baghdad refuses to implement the scheme, which it considers a violation of its sovereignty. Under the plan, all proceeds from the oil sales would have to be paid into a U.N. escrow account, with about one third being funnelled off for Gulf war reparations and other war debts. The United Nations would also monitor all phases of the oil sales as well as the distribution of humanitarian supplies. "We do not accept Resolution 706 because it is impractical and I don't think it will help at all to bring food and medicine to our people," Mr. Hiti had said Tuesday. Mr. Hiti said Iraq now produces around 450,000 barrels per day (bpd), all of it for domestic consumption. Mr. Hiti put Iraq's refining capacity at around 400,000 bpd but said another 70,000 bpd could come on line in the first quarter of next year. Thousands of Iraqis chanting anti-American slogans held daily marches in Baghdad in a crescendo of complaint against the U.N. sanctions.

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Iraq's cancer patients suffer from illness and trade sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — With the pallor of the seriously ill, patients at Baghdad's Cancer Institute shuffle along the corridors, victims of potentially fatal diseases and of trade sanctions that prevent them getting drugs for treatment.

"I can assure you that since August, 1990, we have received nothing, whether as a gift, a shipment of imports, nothing for chemotherapy at all," the institute's head, Faik Sammarai, said Wednesday.

The date marked the start of world trade sanctions to punish Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq's health minister Tuesday branded as "the crime of the century" the West's refusal to unfreeze Iraqi assets to allow Baghdad to buy life-saving medicine.

Drugs and food were excluded from international sanctions, but Iraq's \$4 billion of foreign cash were frozen and Baghdad says no overseas supplier will open credit lines for medical supplies.

"We are in a dilemma as to what to tell the patients," Dr. Sammarai, a British-trained physician, said. "We have to tell them that we don't have the stuff to do the scans or carry out the treatment."

Shortages have hit every section of the institute, the main cancer treatment centre for Iraq's 18 million people.

Like such institutions anywhere, it is a depressing place where the seriously ill and dying confront a gloomy future.

Their movement along the corridors is slow and painful, their faces a mask of helplessness and bewilderment.

But doctors say shortages make it even more desperate. They are resorting to date-expired drugs and supplies scavenged from other hospitals to provide a minimal service to thousands of patients.

"I'm out of work," said the head of the nuclear medicine

section, Mohammad Rased. "Everything has stopped because we don't get radioactive isotopes anymore."

"It's not fair on the patients... it's not very nice not having the material to treat them."

Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed says around two billion dollars of orders for all categories of drugs and equipment have not been honoured because hostile foreign governments will not unfreeze the assets.

Dr. Sammarai said advanced scanning cameras made in Germany, Japan and the United States have been idle since August last year because no supplies of radioactive isotopes have been received.

"We used to get a batch every week. The stuff has a very short shelf life. Now these machines are idle," he said, pointing to Gamma cameras and scanners which can detect the presence or spread of cancer.

"The machines used to be serviced by American, Japanese and German engineers. But no one comes anymore."

On his desk is a list of 21 drugs for the treatment of cancer which have been placed with foreign suppliers but not met. In another file are orders for basics such as disposable gloves and storage jars.

"We have to improvise. The technicians are using gasoline to separate fatty tissue from cells instead of the substance xylol."

The institute used to treat 4,000 new cases of cancer a year, but the number has fallen to 2,300 this year, probably because of dislocated and expensive transport in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Many patients stopped coming in January, when the ground war to oust Iraq from Kuwait started.

"They are now coming back with advanced diseases," said Dr. Sammarai.

Kuwait medicine faculty bars veiled women students

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's faculty of medicine has banned Muslim fundamentalist women students from wearing face veils in class, in laboratories and on hospital ward rounds.

The unprecedented ban, introduced Monday, sparked uproar among students who described it as "an interference with their personal freedom which Islam guarantees for everybody."

But the faculty's dean, Hilal Al Sayer, and other senior staff said the thick-cloth veils made teaching more difficult and had a negative effect on patients.

"It is forbidden in the faculty of medicine to attend classes, laboratories and hospitals with students' faces covered," Mr. Sayer said in a statement.

"Any student who does not comply with the regulations will not be allowed to attend teaching sessions."

Certain Kuwaiti women began wearing the veil after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Some did so in response to increased Western influence in Kuwait — a trend highlighted by the presence of U.S. troops there after the Gulf war.

Mr. Sayer said the veil, which reveals only the eyes, hindered students during scientific and applied studies as well when examining patients at hospitals.

The dean's assistant, Abdul Latif Al Badr, said professors would prefer to see students' expressions during classes to determine their comprehension and concentration.

He said the veil had a negative

effect on patients.

"How can a patient take off his clothes to be examined by a veiled woman doctor. How can he have confidence in his doctor if he can't see her face?"

Staff said foreign doctors who visited the faculty recently had criticised the veil as an obstacle to medicine.

Doctor Hassan Al Dashti of the surgery faculty said female doctors should introduce themselves to patients and try to win their trust before starting any treatment.

But the Kuwaiti Students Union condemned the decision and urged the faculty to rescind it and apologise in writing to the students. Some medical students staged a protest strike.

"Preventing veiled students continuing their studies for a reason which does not conflict with the search for knowledge is prejudiced and wrong," it said in a statement.

"All this (commotion) is not for a crime they have committed or for falling behind in their studies but because of their adherence to modesty."

The union's spokesman, Hamad Matar, said doctors had barred veiled students from their classes after the decision was taken.

One veiled student, Nazeera Al Anzi, rejected suggestions that the veil impeded teaching.

"Wearing the veil is an indisputable question for us. We wore it out of conviction and faith... we will not make any compromise on that."

U.S., Britain demand Libyan compensation over Pan Am bombing

LONDON (R) — The United States and Britain issued new demands to Libya Wednesday over the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland, insisting that it pay compensation for the 270 people who died.

But a joint statement by the two governments stopped short of threatening sanctions if Libya failed to comply with what British officials said was a deadline of "weeks not months."

The statement renewed an earlier demand that Libya hand over two alleged Libyan agents accused of organising the bombing.

Besides compensation, the new demands also included seeking full disclosure of all that Libya knows about the incident.

France joined in a separate portion of the statement — that said the Libyan government must "by concrete actions prove its renunciation of terrorism."

This part of the statement referred to the bombing of a French jetliner over North Africa that Libya has been accused of carrying out.

Following the investigations carried out into the bombings of Pan Am 103 UTA 772, the three states have presented specific demands to Libyan authorities related to the judicial procedures that are under way, the tripartite portion of the statement said.

"They require that Libya comply with all these demands, and, in addition, that Libya commit itself concretely and definitively to cease all forms of terrorist action and all assistance to terrorist groups," it added.

On Nov. 14, Britain and the United States indicted two Libyans on murder charges arising from the Lockerbie bombing. Libya has denied any role in Britain's biggest mass murder.

All 259 people on board Pan Am Flight 103 heading from London to New York and 11 people on the ground died.

British officials would not say how much compensation was being demanded and said that further measures against Libya, if it did not comply, had not been ruled out.

"We are not ruling anything in, or anything out," one said, when questioned on the possibility of sanctions.

The officials said the demands were handed earlier on Wednesday to the Italian embassy to be passed on to Britain severed relations with Libya in 1984 after a policewoman was shot outside Libya's London embassy and Italy now looks after British interests.

"The British and American governments today declare that the government of Libya must surrender for trial all those charged with the crime and accept complete responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials," the joint statement said.

The statement added that Libya must "pay appropriate

compensations... (and) disclose all it knows of this crime including the names of all those responsible."

British officials also said that Libya could prove it had renounced terrorism by giving details of its contacts with Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas who are fighting British rule in Northern Ireland.

Libyan Prime Minister Abu Zaid Omar Dourda, canvassing for support in the row, met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday.

Senior Libyan envoys are visiting most Arab and Muslim heads of state to express concern over the threat of military action by the United States and Britain.

Mr. Dourda told reporters in Jordan Tuesday that Libya might call for an urgent meeting of the Arab League to discuss Western threats.

Syria has publicly opposed military action and supported Libya's suggestion that the dis-

pute be settled in international courts. The United States and Britain reject the idea.

Syrian presidential spokesman Joabran Kourieh said Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi attended Mr. Dourda's meeting with Mr. Assad.

Libya's parliamentary speaker arrived in Tehran Tuesday night with a message about the dispute from Colonel Muammar Qadhafi to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Mr. Dourda visited Cairo before Amman and Damascus. Brigadier Abu Bakr Younis, chief of staff of the Libyan armed forces, has been touring Gulf Arab states.

In Tehran, Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran stood by Libya in its dispute with the U.S. and Britain.

"This method that they unjustly accuse a country and then do whatever they want is in no way acceptable," Tehrao Radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling the Libyan envoy.

Shamir discloses secret talks with Palestinians, book says

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir held more than 50 secret meetings with prominent Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, some of them in his own home, according to a newly revised book obtained by Reuters Tuesday.

Mr. Shamir is described in the book as seeking to judge the local leaders away from Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to negotiate directly with Israel for a five-year period of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

The meetings are reported by Janet and John Wallach, authors of "Arafat: In The Eyes of the Beholder." The new material appears in an updated trade paperback being published this week. A copy of the relevant passages was made available to Reuters Tuesday night.

Of the local Palestinian leaders, Mr. Shamir is quoted as saying: "I think they are more intelligent than the people in Tunis. They understand better the situation here, and they feel better the situation here than the people in Tunis."

"They feel better the extent of the demands they can put, if they want to be realistic, because they are here under the pressure of the events," Mr. Shamir is quoted as adding in an interview with the authors.

The Wallachs write that "it is well understood by Israeli officials that the Palestinians send reports of these conversations to Arafat," who is based in Tunis.

The book does not name the Palestinians said to have met secretly with Shamir, including several sessions "in the privacy of his home."

But John Wallach said in a telephone interview he believed they included Faisal Al Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, who were among those that represented Palestinians from the occupied territories as part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks that opened in Madrid last month.

Mr. Wallach said Mr. Shamir had declined to be quoted on the names of the Palestinians with whom he met.

"He said something like 'you know, if you publish that, I may have to deny it' or something like that. That's why we didn't use any names," Mr. Wallach, foreign editor of the Hearst newspapers, said.

Among the other Palestinians, leaders named by Wallach in the telephone interview as apparently having met Mr. Shamir secretly were Radwan Abu Ayash, a leading Palestinian activist who is head of the Arab Journalists Association, Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem Hanna Siniora, publisher of Al Fajr, a

leading Palestinian newspaper on the West Bank and Zuhra Kamal, a prominent social activist.

The book quotes Radwan Abu Ayash as indicating Mr. Shamir was making any headway in wooing local leaders from the PLO.

"Without Arafat, we are nothing," he is quoted. "Arafat is viewed in the occupied territories as the Palestinian revolution, the leader of the Palestinian revolution."

The Wallachs also report in the updated edition that in 1988 U.S. Army General Colin Powell, current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote a letter to White House stationery assuring Mr. Arafat that then-President Ronald Reagan would honour a secret commitment to begin an official U.S. dialogue with the PLO.

The letter, written while the United States was publicly denying it had any contact with the PLO and while Gen. Powell was national security adviser to the president, was a key element in persuading Mr. Arafat to recognise Israel and renounce terrorism, according to the book.

Gen. Powell could not immediately be reached for comment.

Washington broke off an 18-month-long dialogue with the group in June 1990 after the PLO leadership refused to denounce a failed seaborne raid on the Israeli coast by Palestinian guerrillas.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen ambush Turkish police car; 1 dead

ANKARA (R) — A gunman ambushed a Turkish police car, killing one patrolman and wounding another in southern Adana province, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said on Wednesday. No group claimed the responsibility for Tuesday night's attack. Turkey's far-left guerrilla group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), the outlawed Turkish Workers Peasants Liberation Army (TİKKO) and the separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) have stepped up attacks in recent months.

Kurds deny Turkish agency report

LONDON (R) — Kurdish rebels Tuesday denied a Turkish news agency report that Iraqi troops had attacked Kurds in their administrative capital Erbil. "There is no attack at all," Sherwan Dizayee, a spokesman in London for the rebel Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said. "We deny this. There has been no such incident," he told Reuters. Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said the attack on Erbil began on Monday evening and involved troops backed by assault helicopters and tanks. Quoting what it said was the KDP's rebel radio station, the agency said Kurdish Peshmarga rebels had pulled back towards the mountains while civilians were fleeing towards the towns of Dians and Rawandiz to the northeast on the road to Iran. Mr. Dizayee said he had contacted KDP headquarters in rebel-held territory in northern Iraq to check the news agency report.

Algerian university strikers dispersed

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces broke up a protest march by striking university tutors and teaching staff outside the prime minister's office Tuesday, injuring 11 people, the strikers said. The lecturers, on strike for 11 days over salaries and accommodation at Algiers University, had gone to the office to hand in a petition supporting their demands. A spokesman said the strikers had asked for permission to stage a march in support of their claims but the local authority had refused. Police had moved in to disperse them. University Minister Djillali Liabes, a former university teacher, said on Algiers Radio: "I am sorry for what happened to my colleagues." He said Prime Minister Sidahmad Ghazali also expressed his regrets.

Bahrain honours Thatcher for support

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has honoured former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her support during the Gulf crisis. The Gulf News Agency said the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa Sheikh Isa, gave Mrs. Thatcher the "Ahmad Al Fateh Order" — named after a member of the Al Khalifa family who conquered Bahrain in 1783 — after she arrived from Kuwait Tuesday night. Sheikh Isa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa praised Mrs. Thatcher, prime minister at the time of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Bahrain played host to Royal Air Force personnel sent to join the U.S.-led alliance which drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February, ending a seven-month occupation. Bahraini dailies carried front-page editorials praising Mrs. Thatcher Wednesday. "Her rallying call ensured leaders sent thousands of troops to confront Iraqi forces — and there is little doubt that without her steadfastness and resolve in winning swift backing for Arab, U.S. and British forces after Kuwait's seizure, Saddam Hussein would have gone on to try to capture Saudi Arabia's oilfields — and worse," the English Gulf Daily News said.

Sudanese rebel factions agree to ceasefire

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese guerrillas who split into two warring factions in August have agreed to a ceasefire from Wednesday, rebel representatives said after a meeting in Nairobi Tuesday. A joint statement said details and terms of the agreement would be worked out later but a ceasefire was to come into effect from Wednesday morning. A faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) split from leader John Garang in August, accusing him of human rights abuses and saying he behaved like a dictator. The SPLA has fought a hush war against the Khartoum government for seven years, seeking to redress what it sees as domination of the mainly Christian, animist south by the Arabised, Muslim north.

U.N. seeks massive aid for controversial Afghan projects

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United Nations appealed on Wednesday for nearly \$100 million and thousands of tonnes of wheat for its Afghan relief programme which has been dogged by allegations of mismanagement. Calling Afghanistan's problems "horrendous and heartbreaking," the U.N. secretary-general's Afghan envoy Benon Sevan said the country needed aid more than ever despite donor fatigue after 13 years of war.

"I believe the international community has an obligation to Afghanistan. After all, Afghans carried the burden for 13 years, and I think that burden should now be shared in rebuilding Afghanistan," he told a news conference.

Two million people have been killed during the war, much of Afghanistan's farming has been destroyed and social indicators like child mortality are among the worst in the world.

Mr. Sevan said leaked audit claims of mismanagement, poor accounting and diversion of funds to the U.N.'s Afghan humanitarian and economic assistance programme have since been largely cleared up and a full report would be released next week.

"I can assure you of one thing. There has been no misuse of funds by any person in UNOCA."

UNOCA, the agency coordinating relief efforts in Afghanistan, was strongly criticised in the original report for its failure to properly monitor the operation Salam Assistance programme.

Mr. Sevan, who now heads UNOCA as well as U.N. efforts to promote a political solution to the Afghan war, said he originally decided to keep it but to cut staff and costs.

Staff in Geneva are being halved and elsewhere reduced by about a quarter to cut overall administration costs by 22 per cent.

Whether that will be enough to restore confidence in the Afghan programme is uncertain. Other U.N. sources said the leaked report had significantly damaged the image of Operation Salam at a time when it was already finding it difficult to raise funds.

Mr. Sevan said Operation Salam's 1992 plans cost \$133.7 million in cash and 95,000 tonnes of wheat, but it still needed \$94.1 million and 61,000 tonnes of wheat.

"I am not here asking for money to employ U.N. staff. I am here to ask for money to help the Afghan people," he said.

Priorities next year would be given to funding projects in farming, food aid, health, basic education and clearing some of the 10 million mines scattered across the country.

But only an end to the war could begin to repair the tattered social fabric of Afghanistan and bring normal life to teenagers able to dismantle an assault rifle blindfolded but unable to add two and two, he said.

"The challenge of Afghanistan is not how to win the war but how to win the peace. Every single day of delay of the peace settlement is basically translated into losing the peace."

Mr. Sevan constantly shuttles between Islamabad, Tehran and Kabul trying to persuade the Afghan government and guerrillas based in Pakistan and Iran to agree to an interim government

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Lola et les Sardines
18:30 Magny
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 NBA Basketball
21:30 News in English
22:30 Future film: "The Asphalt Jungle"

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr
06:10 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhr
14:12 Asr
16:30 Maghreb
17:57 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel: 816740
Assembly of God Church, Tel: 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590
Church of the Assumption Tel: 674400
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

Terraviva Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel: 623541

Anglican Church Tel: 625383, Tel: 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 773261

St. Elizabeth Church Tel: 771751

Assumption International Church Tel: 827981, 685336

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 823824 and 659322

Church of the Nazarene Tel: 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with southerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Min./max. temp. Amman 9/17
Aqaba 14/22
Dera'a 8/20

Jordan Valley 15/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 68 per cent, Aqaba 49 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Kayed Halayeh 793522
Dr. Yafar Abdul Rahim 736072
Dr. Fakhr Abu Tayeh 883880
Dr. Hikam Kanaana 790286
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 773336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646445
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Hamed Barham (—)
Al Sharran pharmacy (985338)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Rescue 119

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 84302

Traffic Police 886390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 874467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010330

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Al-Khish Maternity, J. Amn 64341/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 64262

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4

Shamsani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845843

Al-Musah Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday issues diplomas to students who completed their studies at the Institute of Specialized Nursing Studies (Petra photo)

20 students complete nursing training programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — A batch of 20 Jordanian students graduated Wednesday from the Institute of Specialized Nursing Studies (ISNS) after completing their courses in teacher training and primary health care specialty programmes.

Her Majesty Queen Noor attended the graduation ceremony, held at Al Bashir Hospital, where the institute is located, and handed the graduates their diplomas.

Built in 1988 at the overall cost of \$6.5 million provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the institute has graduated 50 students who are employed in health centres and hospitals in the country.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh, in an address at the ceremony, outlined the importance of the nursing profession in general and the development of nursing in the country in particular.

USAID Representative P. Bakrishnan referred to the fruitful cooperation between the agency and the Health Ministry over the years. He said that the training programme, which started at the institute in 1988, was aimed at graduating skilled nurses to benefit the local community.

According to USAID, the graduates should be able to apply basic concepts, principles, theories and skills of adult education and primary health care in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of training programmes. They should also be able to teach and demonstrate primary health care knowledge in a variety of fields, function as an effective team member in primary health care programmes and demonstrate an expanded leadership role in this field.

Douglas Keen represented U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison at the ceremony.

Amnesty appealing to King to commute death sentences of Mohammad's Army defendants

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Amnesty International (AI) has appealed to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and His Majesty King Hussein to commute the sentences of the eight defendants sentenced to death in the Mohammad's Army trial, an AI official said.

Amnesty International, the London-based international human rights organisation, asked for commuting the sentences in keeping with its policy of opposing the death penalty, said the official, who requested anonymity. It also is requesting that the defendants be given a right to appeal.

"We are appealing to the prime minister... that the death sentence not be carried out and for the King to commute the sentences," the official said Tuesday in a telephone interview from London with the Jordan Times.

Salim Kheir, an official at the Prime Ministry, Wednesday said that they had not received any formal appeal from Amnesty International. He declined to answer further questions and referred all inquiries to the Interior Ministry.

The interior minister, travelling abroad, was not available for comment. Salameh Hammad, secretary general at the Interior Ministry, said he was not qualified to speak on the matter. "I don't have any information on it because it's in the court," he said.

On Monday, a three-judge panel at the State Security Court in Marka found 20 members of the group guilty of offences ranging from illegally plotting to change the country's constitution to terrorist attacks on civilians. The court sentenced eight of them to death, two in absentia, while the other 12 members were given jail sentences ranging from four years to life.

Amnesty officials have been following the case closely since the members of the self-styled Mohammad's Army group were arrested earlier this year. The trial has been marked with protests, walkouts by defence lawyers and allegations of torture used to obtain confessions. The government has repeatedly denied that torture took place.

Officials of the human rights group have expressed concern over the apparent detention of the suspects for a period of about two months during which they were denied the right to see lawyers. In addition, the lack of an appeal process in this case makes the entire trial a violation of international law, the Amnesty official contended.

"We have been concerned about this trial because it is a court (in which) the defendant is not given a possibility of a fair trial," said the Amnesty official. "In this case, the verdict of this court is final."

A member of the Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, Leith Shubeilat, Wednesday criticised the government's handling of the case and questioned the validity of the verdicts. He contended that his committee "did not recognise it as true."

Mr. Shubeilat, in echoing Amnesty International officials, claimed the trial was not conducted in accordance with internationally accepted standards. "Personally speaking," he said, "I will try to take action (on behalf of the defendants). I will try to rally action in Parliament."

Mr. Shubeilat said the Public Freedoms Committee will also try to help the defendants, but fell short of saying they would appeal to the prime minister or the King for the sentences to be commuted. "We haven't decided what to do," he said.

Total cases of AIDS in Kingdom since 1986 rises to 66, ministry reports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry Wednesday revealed that the total number of AIDS cases in the Kingdom since 1986 has now reached 66, 59 of whom are Jordanians.

Of the Jordanians infected with the disease, 14 have already died, one of whom passed away last week, said the ministry in a statement prior to the World AIDS Day, 1991, which is to be observed Sunday.

Only one AIDS patient out of the seven foreign nationals died in the Kingdom, the statement said. The rest have been repatriated, said the ministry's statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Ministry of Health has been able to control the spread of the AIDS disease through strict monitoring of the blood transfusion processes and through stringent precautionary measures, including laboratory tests, the statement said.

All blood banks in Jordan conduct tests on the blood of donors to ensure that they are safe, especially if the donors had undergone surgical operations abroad. At the same time, Jordan restricts the importation of any amount of blood from other countries, the statement added.

Jordan is considered among the first few countries of the region to take precautionary measures against the spread of the AIDS disease. According to World

Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, there are between eight and 10 million men, women and children around the world who are infected by this disease and that more than 5,000 are infected by AIDS daily.

The ministry statement noted that Jordan, through the continued efforts of a National Committee to Combat AIDS, has been implementing a wide-scale campaign to spread education among young people against the killer disease and ways to protect themselves from it.

The committee, which directs most of its attention to school graduates, conducts lectures and documentary film shows and distributes leaflets featuring ways to provide people with protection. According to the committee, AIDS is mainly transmitted through sexual contact among men and women and among homosexuals. It is also passed through the use of infected needles by addicts.

The committee, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other concerned parties, conducts its work at schools and youth centres, with the main target being those planning to go abroad for study.

Dr. Mona Hamzeh, director of the ministry's Health Education Department, said health officials and workers have compiled 20 documentary films for the purpose of promoting the fight

against AIDS. The department publishes pamphlets and booklets which are distributed to community colleges, universities and secondary schools and conducts lectures on the causes of the disease and ways of protection.

According to the statement, the Health Ministry has conducted studies on AIDS in Jordan through 7,500 samples of people, aged between 15 and 60, 50 per cent of whom were women.

A recent study in the United States showed that AIDS was spreading rapidly among American women and cases contracted through heterosexual contact were rapidly increasing.

The WHO has been issuing warnings of a dramatic increase in AIDS among women noting that the virus, called HIV, was rising fast.

The WHO says that AIDS was pandemic unlike other so-called international health problems such as malaria and small pox, AIDS strikes the developing and developed world with equal vengeance and forces all nations to consider their common interest in the solution of international health problems, the statement said.

It said that the AIDS epidemic provides a new opportunity to view health as an international phenomenon, one that is best addressed by policies with international dimensions.

Commission recommends birth spacing

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study prepared by the National Population Commission (NPC) recommended birth spacing as a national health policy benefiting mothers and their children in Jordan.

The study, which was submitted to a conference on population held in Jordan recently, noted that a number of Jordanian voluntary organisations which have been providing mother and child care services in the King-

dom have overlooked the question of birth spacing and family planning services.

Only the Local Society for Birth Spacing in Jordan has been offering Jordanian women such services at its own clinics, benefiting some 39,000 women in 1990, the study noted.

On the whole, such services in general are not being offered on a regular basis by any source, although birth spacing and family planning are vitally important for

Jordan's society under the present circumstances, the study said.

The study also pointed out that development in various fields and progress achieved by the various sectors in Jordan has led to raising the health and living standards of its people, leading to a higher growth rate in population.

Moreover, Jordan's population has been augmented by the vast numbers of people returning from the Gulf region.

Romanian official praises strong Amman-Bucharest ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Romanian embassy in Amman Wednesday highlighted the strong ties between Amman and Bucharest on the eve of Romania's national day and called for greater cooperation.

Nicolae Anton, the culture attaché at the Romanian embassy, said that the strong cooperation which has characterised Romanian-Jordanian relations is a tribute to the people of both countries, "not only at the political level, but also at the economic level."

Trade between Jordan and Romania reaches about \$60 million worth of exchange annually,

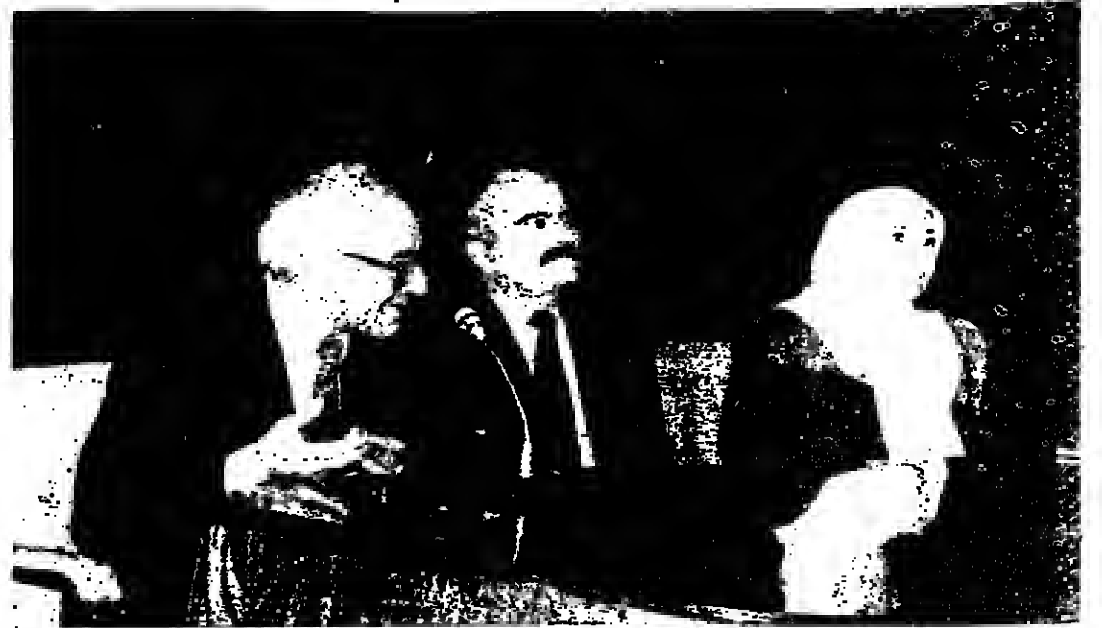
he said. Last year, the two countries concluded an economic agreement further cementing the economic ties between them. In addition, about 30 Jordanian companies took part in August in an international industrial fair in Romania.

But Mr. Anton, in praising the ties of both countries, stressed that the good relations between the two countries extend beyond the diplomatic level. He also said that he expects Jordanian-Romanian relations to improve further.

"They could be stronger be-

cause we have the same mentality," he said. "We have many Jordanians who study in Romania. They get to know the Romanian people, culture, language and history." Currently, there are about 10,000 Jordanians studying in Romania. In addition, there are about 1,000 marriages between Jordanians and Romanians.

Romania's national day, Mr. Anton said, marks an important day in its history as the reunification of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia, on Dec. 1, 1918, established modern-day Romania.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (centre) Wednesday at the Amman Baccalaureate School listens to Egyptian scientist Farouk Al Baz (left) outline the danger of environmental pollution (Petra photo)

Scientist highlights dangers of environmental pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — A noted Egyptian scientist Wednesday delivered a lecture at the Amman Baccalaureate School in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath on environmental developments around the world, with special focus on pollution caused by the Gulf war.

Dr. Farouk Al Baz, director of the Space Centre at Boston University and professor of geology at Ain Shams University in Cairo, reviewed the effects of pollution on humans and the need for solving environmental issues.

Dr. Baz presented a number of photos taken by satellites of part of the earth showing the topography of the Arab world, its desert, water areas and the atmosphere.

The Arab World lives in a desert-environment where few areas are covered with plants and water, something which should urge the concerned Arab govern-

ments to step up efforts to properly utilise natural resources and fight the desertification phenomenon, Dr. Baz said.

Referring to the Gulf war, he said that the air, water and land were all heavily polluted, largely due to the fires that burnt for months at the oil fields of Kuwait. The fires caused enormous amounts of fumes and dangerous gases to poison the atmosphere, with detrimental consequences to humans, plants and animals.

Dr. Baz said that the huge oil quantities leaking from the wells to the Gulf sea have caused the destruction of the fish in the area. The smoke, which lasted for more than one year, the oil, which was split into the sea, and the effects on soil will contaminate the region for at least 100 years, Dr. Baz said.

Referring to the depletion of the ozone layer, he said that the presence of the satellite helped to identify the most affected areas in

the ozone, especially in the South Pole. Dr. Baz answered questions by the students related to means of protecting the environment.

In a brief statement, Crown Prince Hassan stressed the importance of exchanging ideas about ways to protect the environment. He also stressed the need for such information about the world environment to be conveyed to the students of the Third World.

The lecture was part of the ongoing international youth congress which, apart from Jordanian students, hosts students from various countries around the world.

The congress was opened Sunday by Crown Prince Hassan with a speech in which he highlighted the need to have a code of international conduct in time of peace and a new world order that can address the challenges of the modern age.

Overcrowded educational system disrupts school building plans, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education's policy to accepting all students returning from the Gulf countries has disrupted its own school building plans, according to a senior ministry official.

Dr. Izzat Jaradat, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday said that initially government schools accepted 60,000 expatriate students, but the figure has now risen to 70,000, raising the total number of students in Jordan's schools to 1,141,875.

The presence of congested classes forced the ministry to retain the double-shift system in many

of its schools and called for amendments to school building plans, Dr. Jaradat said.

According to Dr. Jaradat, who is the ministry's assistant secretary general for planning, the ministry has drawn up plans to build more schools in various governorates to provide better facilities for the students, to dispose of the rented buildings and end the two-shift school system. He said that the ministry's plans aim to complete these projects by the year 2000.

The ministry, in a drive to provide basic education to all Jordanian and non-Jordanian Arab students, has ordered

schools to accept all expatriate children. Therefore, the congestion in classes was no surprise, Dr. Jaradat said.

He said that the ministry has been giving special attention in its building plans to remote villages and has been conducting studies to ensure that the educational process was running smoothly.

Dr. Jaradat said that a field survey has shown that each teacher in Jordan has an average of 23 students in his or her class, which places Jordan among 71 countries in the world with teachers caring for between 21 and 30 students.

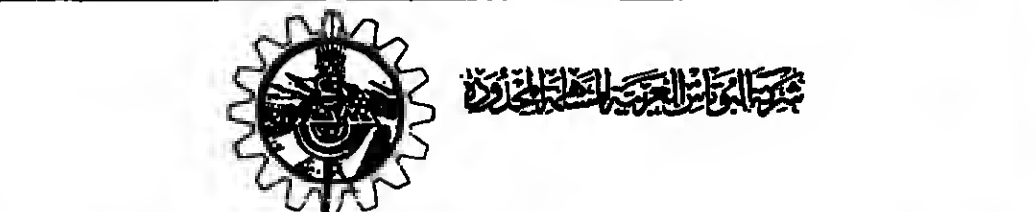
HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Mauritania

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Mauritani President Moudou Ahmed Al Taye to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on the national day of Mauritania. King Hussein wished Mr. Taye good health and happiness and the Mauritanian people further progress and prosperity.

U.S. feedgrain donation arrives in Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — A shipment of 50,000 metric tonnes of U.S. donated sorghum arrived at the port of Aqaba Wednesday. This is the third of five shipments totalling 241,000 metric tonnes of feedgrain donated by the U.S. to Jordan in 1991. The last two shipments, consisting of 100,000 metric tonnes of corn and sorghum, are scheduled to arrive in Aqaba by the end of the year.



HASEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROJECT NO. 30 - 4857 (APC - 25 / 90) RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT SUPPLY

The Arab Potash Company Limited (A.P.C.) of Amman, Jordan plans to expand production capacity by 400,000 tonnes per year. The facilities will be located on a site adjoining the existing refinery near Safi, on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 200 Km. north of the port of Aqaba.

Suppliers interested in tendering for "ANTI-CAKING FLAKE FEEDERS" can purchase tender documents from A.P.C. or Jacobs at the address shown below. The cost for this tender package shall be U.S.\$ 40.— non-refundable.

1. Mr. Issa Gammoh,
Projects Manager
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.,
P.O.Box 1470
Amman - Jordan

2. Mr. M. Hodgins,
Jacobs International Inc.,
Merrion House,
Merrion Road,
Dublin 4, - Ireland

Fax No.: 962-3-377125/Site
Fax No.: 962-6-674416 /
Amman H.O.
Telex No.: 21683 Potash Jo.
Tel. No.: 666165/6 - Amman.
665116 or 03-377121-Site.

Fax No.: 353-1-2695497
Telex No.: 30295 JCBS-EI
Tel. No.: 353-1-2695666

Closing date for submitting this tender shall be the 14th of December 1991.

A.Y. Ensour
Managing Director,
The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.,

AMRA HOTEL



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that keeps on giving.

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Price per person:
Adult JD. 7.500
Children 4.000
+ 10% Government Tax
+ 10% Service Charge

- Cold Mezze and Salad 20
Item to be included:
Smoked Salmon
Carrot and Celery Salad
Apple Salad
Vegetable Salad
Virginian Sliced Pickles
Beef Root and Cabbage Salad
Honey of plums (Tuna pan ahi)
Soup: Pumpkin Soup
- HOT
Roast Wild Duck and Rice
Kidney Beans in Red Wine
Hot pepper Chicken
Roast Beef with Yorkshire
pudding
Fresh Stew
Sweet Potato Stuffed Apples
Sautéed fresh string Beans
Carving
Roast Turkey with stuffing
- DESSERTS
Apple Dumplings
Pumpkin pie
English Trifle
Bavaria
16 items of Sweet and Fresh Fruit
Display
- Price per person: JD. 7.500
Adult
Children 4.000
+ 10% Government Tax
+ 10% Service Charge

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Jordan Times

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Facsimile: 661242

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A question of resolve

THE ISRAELI government's decision to rebuff the U.S. over its invitation to attend the second round of peace talks in Washington on Dec. 4 goes beyond the issue of the venue of future negotiations between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. What seems to disturb Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his inner circle of advisers most is the implications of Washington's deliberate policy of going over the head of Israel and naming the location of the second stage parleys in a manner that ran contrary to Israel's own thinking on the subject. It is possible that Shamir is really all hot and bothered by the site of the next few days of preliminary discussions, since Washington has become a different scene for him whether through the administration's strong opposition to his settlement policy or through the U.S. Jewish community's growing conviction in the land-for-peace solution. But what seems to worry Shamir most is the U.S.' apparent determination to call the shots in peace efforts. This attitude by Washington may suggest at least to the minds of the Israeli hardliners that this American administration is bent on having a direct impact on the substantive negotiations between the parties especially after they get bogged down as projected because of Israel's deep-seated refusal to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. As if telling President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker that they may not make unilateral decisions on behalf of Israel, the Israeli government served notice on them that it will not acquiesce to the Dec. 4 meeting without prior additional discussions including assurances that the Washington talks would be non-substantive in nature. In other words, if Israel is to yield to the U.S. invitation, it first wants guarantees that the U.S. forum would be ceremonial. And to drive home once again Shamir's zealous concern about Jewish holidays which prompted him to leave the Madrid peace conference on its third day, he now injects once again the religious argument and maintains that any future talks must await the ending of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah on December 9.

The message behind the Israeli decision to shun the U.S. must be clear and loud to all: Israel is procrastinating on the peace process because it has no intention of seeing it through till the end. The Israeli foot-dragging is so obvious that it should give the Arab parties extra incentives to pursue the course of the Madrid conference in seeking an honourable peace.

Doubtless President Bush and his administration are targeted by this Israeli policy that aims to frustrate the ongoing quest to enforce international legitimacy on all fronts. It could be that Shamir is betting on Bush's defeat in the 1992 presidential elections and therefore sees no permanent danger in standing up to his administration in utter arrogance. But even if President Bush is defeated in the next elections, the spinoff effect of any Israeli manipulations would surely take its toll on the American people to the extent that the damage to Israel and its supporters could become so irreversible and permanent that the Jewish state stands to suffer dearly at the end of the tunnel. That is why the U.S. should persevere in its current policy and maintain its resolve towards Israel. This is the only way to redeem all the investments in the peace process that Washington has made in the last several months.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday stressed that the Arab delegations going to Washington in the coming month will by no means allow the Israelis to achieve their selfish desires and impose on the Arab Nation the Zionist will. The Arabs are demanding the return of the occupied Arab lands in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and are seeking to achieve through peaceful means what they are unable to obtain through war, said the daily. No one can predict the outcome of the negotiations in Washington or other venues, but the Arabs are certain to reject any solution that does not fulfill the aspirations of the Arab Nation and end the Israeli occupation, said the paper. Jordan, said the paper, can not lag behind and refuse to participate in the coming negotiations because it feels that the talks could offer an opportunity to implement the international legitimacy and end Israel's occupation of Arab land. But it added that if the negotiations fail because of Israel's refusal to recognise Arab rights or because the world community would fail to force Israel to obey the will of the United Nations, the so-called new world order would be exposed as a big lie, and the world would realise that the Arabs have no alternative but to fight in order to regain their usurped territory.

It is good that the King's letter to the new prime minister warned the new government against the spread of favouritism in government circles and noted that the public administration business should be reformed, said a writer in Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday. It is regrettable to see that favouritism has become the norm and not the exception in government departments, and one cannot get his business done through normal procedures and has to resort to some influential party to carry out the mission, said Ahmad Dhahlan. The writer said that favouritism has been one of the chronic ills that plagued the public administration over the past years and sometimes it has been practised by those people who claim to be keen on promoting democracy and offer people equal treatment. The Jordanian community lacks proper education in democracy and the application of law on all people on equal footing so that justice can prevail and equitable opportunities can be afforded to all, the writer continued. Furthermore, a large number of people continue to seek the help of Parliament members of their own constituencies in order to have jobs or get favourable treatments, the deputies sometimes welcome such practice and encourage it, said the writer. He said that sometimes people are not to blame if they seek to achieve their business through the "wasta," or a third influential party, because of the complicated routine. He said that the solution to the problem lies with equal opportunities and fair treatment in all cases and the government should see to it that such a practice is established.

Reflections

The burden of success

By Sawfan Bataineh

THOSE who think they suffer from job-related pressure should think again. Real pressure is what one feels when summoned by his monarch to run a country facing an "unprecedented gathering of national, regional, and international challenges." This nerve-racking pressure is what Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker should be feeling now as he assumes the post of prime minister of Jordan at this critical juncture. Yet, you wouldn't know it by looking at him.

With seemingly effortless ease he squashed the parliamentary squabbles which hastened the demise of the Masri Cabinet without so much as a whimper from those erstwhile squawky legislators. Thus, he diffused a presumably major crisis even before stepping into the Prime Ministry. Furthermore, he managed to bring former antagonists (the majority of the Masri ministers and their parliamentary detractors) together in the same Cabinet team. Under his leadership, they are bound to gloss over their insubstantial differences.

Genial and self-composed even in the darkest of hours, the Sharif radiates confidence and infuses others with a self-fulfilling optimism. His genteel deportment and regal charm conceal the steely determination of a true leader and the ruthless dispatch of

a veteran warrior. His apparent readiness to step into the political fray masks a curious reluctance to assume political authority; a reluctance that transcends the soldier's natural disdain for politics and betrays the true extent of the man's allegiance to the throne and his love for the country. The Sharif is like an apprentice sculptor who reveres his master's creation so much that he trembles at the thought of tinkering with it.

But the apprentice has graduated. His earlier term as prime minister (April-December 1989) was more a baptism of fire than a routine tour of duty. In less than eight months, he hoisted a nation from the precipice of panic and gloom, brought about by the sudden and unexplained collapse in living standards, and restored a measure of faith in the future amongst the people. He supervised the first parliamentary elections in 22 years and launched a revival of democracy. For his effort, he earned the admiration of Jordanians and the compliments of his liege.

Today, the Sharif has to contend with another source of pressure: the high expectations generated by his earlier performance. The media quickly dubbed the new government as a "national salvation government." Most Jordanians already think of it as such. Yet, the problems (and their solutions) have grown

more complex and interwoven. The steady deterioration in productivity and in both the quality and quantity of output has spread across all sectors (the public sector has become almost totally unworkable). The lack of clear and sensible economic and social policies has once again heightened the people's fear of the future and deepened their sense of impending calamity.

In his first Cabinet meeting, the Sharif demonstrated a clear grasp of all the relevant issues and priorities. Most notably, he pointed out that no government, big or any other, can accomplish much if the public sector remains unresponsive, inefficient, and unproductive of the private economy. Since the Sharif has no intention of failing his mission, this statement can be construed as the clearest warning to all members of the government hierarchy: shape up or ship out.

By now, the Sharif is fully cognisant of the fact that the main domestic battleground is managerial and not political. As such, he is imminently qualified to undertake the necessary structural reforms that are needed to bring about an efficient and growth-bound economy. Guided by the vision of his monarch, the Sharif will undoubtedly set the country firmly upon a course towards salvation. After all, this is what Hashemites do best.

For Soviet Jews, Zionist dream clashes with Israel reality

By Jack Redden
Reuters

JERUSALEM — For Soviet immigrants, the Zionist dream of a haven for the world's Jews has collided with the Israeli reality of lives that are becoming increasingly difficult.

"They are not expecting a bed of roses," said Deborah Lipson of the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum. "But they have to believe there is light at the end of the unemployment tunnel and at the moment it isn't at all apparent that there is."

With unemployment for all Israelis at 10 per cent — and predicted to hit 14 per cent in two years — the chances of Soviet immigrants finding any jobs, never mind in their own fields, are poor.

Among the 330,000 arriving since late 1989, excluding the large number of training programmes, 38 per cent of those available for work are unemployed.

As the news reaches relatives in the Soviet Union, many planning to follow either change their minds or postpone the decision until the collapsing Soviet economy leaves them no choice.

The number of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel has dipped below 10,000 in recent months, a drastic retreat from a flood approaching 30,000 a month before the Gulf war. November looks likely to reach only about 8,000.

"On the one hand you can say 10,000 a month is a lot of people," said Mr. Lipson. "On the other hand, you can say that six months ago it was 20,000. In view of the economic conditions in the Soviet Union it could be 30,000 or 40,000 per month."

According to the Jewish agency, which handles immigration,



1.1 million Soviet Jews have received Israeli invitations needed to start the process of leaving. Of those, half have begun collecting local documents, with 100,000 now holding Soviet exit permits and 35,000 holding Israeli visas.

Both the Jewish agency and the government are still planning on immigration rising to total a million by the middle of the decade.

But Israeli officials privately acknowledge the number who actually come will depend to a large extent on whether jobs are found for those who have arrived since Moscow threw open the doors for Jewish emigration just over two years ago.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who has tried to divert re-

sources to immigrants, boasts of economic progress. He points to 5.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

But, in an interview, he conceded: "If you get such an increase in demand for jobs, there is no economy in the world that can produce jobs at such a pace."

When shown as a per capita figure, Israel GDP growth is less impressive. And exports, which must show "a huge leap" of 12 per cent a year according to Mr. Mordechai, actually fell in 1991.

Mr. Mordechai has succeeded in introducing more market forces in the economy, which still is bound by the legacy of the state's

socialist founders who believed in broad government control.

But the government share of GDP is actually rising from 59 per cent in 1990 to 67 per cent next year — a situation that has encouraged U.S. embassy officials to abandon diplomatic silence and openly advocate reforms to end nearly two decades of lethargic growth.

Most ominously for speeding the integration of Soviet Jews, the money needed to finance it has become inextricably enmeshed in the Middle East peace talks.

Israel's Finance Ministry estimates the cost of absorption at \$40 billion — half from domestic sources and half foreign. Of that

foreign money, a vital part is the \$10 billion Israel hopes to raise through U.S. loan guarantees.

Mr. Mordechai terms the loan guarantees "very important." An official dealing with Soviet immigration was more blunt: "If the money doesn't come in, it means an economic crisis in Israel."

Washington has already postponed consideration of the request once, announcing a delay in September to ensure Israel attended the peace conference U.S. President George Bush called the following month.

Without a U.S. government guarantee to repay if Israel defaults, interest rates would be much higher — if anyone would

give loans. It would also signal to lenders a danger in giving the other billions of dollars Israel is seeking.

The request is to be presented to the U.S. Congress again when it reconvenes in January, with a debate likely in February. Mr. Bush has pointedly refused to discuss terms in advance.

After the crushing defeat suffered by the pro-Israel lobby when it challenged Mr. Bush's September postponement, it will be wary of another direct confrontation.

"We're not going to go charging up the hill again," said a representative of one Jewish-American group. An Israeli official agreed: "We learned to read the map with new eyes."

With foreign aid increasingly unpopular in Washington, some Israeli officials fear they will get only one year of the five-year guarantees they are seeking — two billion dollars instead of 10 billion.

They also see it linked to concessions for Middle East peace, such as a halt to settling Jews on occupied Arab land that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir does not want to accept.

Failure to get the U.S. aid could cripple Israeli efforts to expand the economy and provide jobs, not only discouraging new immigrants, but encouraging those already in Israel to leave.

The Jewish agency said 60 per cent of the 5,138 Soviet immigrants who obtained Israel passports to travel abroad never returned — a small number but possibly the sort of ambitious people Israel needs.

"It is a tragic situation," Mr. Mordechai said. "We have the ingredients, we're short of the capital. If we don't get the capital, we'll lose the ingredients — I mean the Soviet Jews who arrive here."

Mordechai Vanunu — in the lion's den

By Meir Vanunu

I'M not a traitor. I'm a man with a conscience who did what he did out of a deep belief after much thought and many doubts. I didn't want to perform this act. I didn't want to be in the headlines... I didn't want to harm anyone. But I knew that I had to do it, that I had no choice... Were I not to do it, no one else would. And there, I did it, fearful though I was, and ready to pay the price... I knew that I had entered a lion's pit."

Mordechai Vanunu, writing from solitary confinement in Ashkelon Prison, 20/11/87.

"Revealed: The Secrets of Israel's Nuclear Arsenal," ran the headline in The Sunday Times of Oct. 5, 1986. The story that accompanied the headline was based on information that the paper had obtained from my brother, Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli who had worked as a nuclear technician at Dimona, Israel's nuclear reactor centre, from 1976 to 1985. The scientists who debriefed Mordechai were able to determine conclusively that Israel is a nuclear power with 100-200 nuclear and thermonuclear warheads. These make it the sixth largest nuclear power in the world.

By the time the article was published, Mordechai had disappeared. It was later disclosed that he had been lured to Rome a week earlier by Israeli secret service agents, beaten, forcibly drugged, put in chains and smuggled to Israel. The Israeli authorities denied all knowledge of Mordechai's whereabouts until Nov. 9, 1986, when it admitted for the first time that they had "legally detained" him.

The State of Israel charged

Mordechai with espionage, treason and revealing state secrets with intent to "aid the enemy in time of war." His kidnapping and trial were branded top secret, and he was immediately placed in solitary confinement. But on Dec. 22, 1986, en route to a Jerusalem court, Mordechai foiled the authorities' attempts to prevent him from communicating with the outside world. He flashed a message written on the palm of his hand, "I was hijacked in Rome, IFL 30/9/86 at 2100 hours. Came to Rome on BA flight 504."

The media played an important role in creating a hostile pre-trial atmosphere and, in a sense, Mordechai was pre-judged by the public. The government thus diverted public attention from the real issue, and was able to conduct a secret trial and to charge, convict and sentence Mordechai severely. One of the very few reported descriptions of the trial — which was held in camera — came from Peter Hounan of The Sunday Times. He commented:

Had the press been allowed into court, we would know why three confessions Vanunu signed on arriving back in Israel were accepted as valid by the court. They were written immediately after he had spent several days chained to a bench in a pitch-black room aboard a ship and 40 hours on the floor of a blacked-out Israeli cell. It is clear that Vanunu is not only not being seen to get a fair trial, he is not getting a fair trial.

In March 1988, the court convicted Mordechai on all three charges and sentenced him to 18 years in prison. He has been held in total isolation since being abducted, and his visitors are restricted to his family, who are permitted half an hour every two weeks, and his lawyer. He has

been subjected to a variety of psychological pressures aimed at breaking him. These include fluorescent lighting and a video camera operating day and night in his cell for the first two and a half years of his imprisonment, and the constant interception — at time complete suspension — of his mail.

The reasons for the Israeli authorities' attempts to keep the circumstances of my brother's kidnapping and trial a total secret are inextricably linked to the reasons why Israel has sought to keep its nuclear weapons production total secret. Israel has stated and re-stated to the world since the mid-1960s that, "we will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East." At the same time, it has been producing nuclear weapons. It refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to open Dimona to international inspection. Western intelligence sources have, however, estimated that Israel has produced from 30 to 50 nuclear warheads. Yet, until my brother spoke out, there had been no first-hand information to substantiate these speculations: the details and the photographs provided by Mordechai constitute the only hard evidence that Israel has been producing nuclear-grade materials.

Israel's nuclear reactor was built by France in the late 1950s. Norway supplied it with 20 tonnes of heavy water in 1959; other technology and materials were acquired by subterfuge. In 1964, Israel illegally transferred 220 pounds of enriched uranium from a nuclear processing centre in Pennsylvania to Israel. The CIA initiated an investigation into this matter at the time, but the findings were never made public. In 1968, in an action known as "The Plumbett Affair," Israel diverted

a boat en route from Antwerp to Genoa that contained about 200 tonnes of uranium. In 1983, Israel smuggled 810 kryptonites from California. Kryptonite — nuclear triggers — only made the headlines in the spring of 1990 when Iraq was caught smuggling 40 of them from the same U.S. state.

Within Israel, a combination of heavy military censorship and, more disturbingly, the self-censorship of the average Israeli citizen, prevented any discussion of the nuclear question. Through his actions, Mordechai challenged this culture of secrecy and the seemingly institutionalised avoidance of any public debate on this issue. In the aftermath of Mordechai's revelations, renowned defence analyst and commentator Ze'ev Shiff wrote: "The issue of developing nuclear arms in Israel has been considered for years as an absolute taboo."

Knesset member Eliezer Livne and the scientists who tried to begin a debate on the "delicate issue" in the early 1960s were threatened by the Israeli Secret Service. In Shiff's words, "These threats, as well as various administrative measures, strangled the debate."

The secrecy continued through the 1970s and 1980s. The fact that Israel deployed its nuclear weapons during the 1973 war — an event that caused the U.S. and the USSR also to put their nuclear weapons in the area on alert — and Israeli collaboration with South Africa in the production and possibly testing of nuclear weapons, were kept largely out of the public domain. One may think that elected politicians know more about these matters than the average citizen, but on the opening day of Mordechai's trial, Shulamit Aloni, a veteran Liberal member of the Knesset, wrote:

The disturbing questions are: who is responsible for this development; what is the framework of authority; and how are decisions on the subject being made?

On the day of Mordechai's sentencing, 27 Nobel Prize laureates and leading scientists signed an urgent appeal to the Israeli authorities. "However the court may view a citizen's responsibility to the state," they wrote, "this act — of making public the reality of Israel's nuclear programme — deserves the court's understanding." In June 1990, the European Parliament passed a resolution condemning the kidnapping and calling upon the president of Israel to pardon Mordechai or at least commute his sentence. But, in spite of widespread international support from figures as diverse as Peter Bannenson (the founder of Amnesty International), the late Graham Greene, Harold Pinter, Carl Sagan, Gore Vidal and many, many others, the Israeli government has refused to give any ground.

Why have Western countries, in particular the U.S. and Britain, kept silent on both Israeli nuclear weapons production and on the Vanunu affair? In the US the Symington amendment stipulates that a country that produces, acquires or tests nuclear weapons is ineligible for U.S. aid. Can Mordechai's information have endangered the U.S.\$4 billion a year aid that Israel receives from the U.S.? Could this, in turn, have made Israel go to such extraordinary lengths to keep the Vanunu case shrouded in secrecy?

Israel, of course, uses the "national security" argument to justify its policy of secrecy on both the nuclear issue and the Vanunu affair. But what are the limits of national security in a

democratic country when it comes to nuclear weapons production? Chernobyl proved the obvious: nuclear fallout recognises no national borders. How then can the reality of any country's nuclear activities be restricted by narrow nationalistic interests? Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil wrote in 1988: "It is in the general interest that we know who is a nuclear power and who is not. Seen in that light, Vanunu's story was in the interests of the world at large."

When faced with one of the most difficult conflicts of loyalties in the nuclear age, that of the interests of the state versus the interests of humanity at large, my brother's conscience led him to act for the world at large. As he wrote from his prison cell in April 1991: "You have to know that no matter what happens, I am proud of my actions, for my revelations, for not cooperating with their lies, their deceptions of the world and themselves, for not keeping silent. That is all that a man can do, to not be afraid of the power of the state; to show to all that in the nuclear age a man is obliged to all the human race."

Sept. 30, 1991 was Mordechai Vanunu's fifth anniversary in conditions described by Amnesty International as "circumstances which may have amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment." In August 1991, his petition to appeal to the court to end his solitary confinement was rejected outright by the president of the Supreme Court. He has all but exhausted the fight to end his extreme isolation through the Israeli legal system. — Index on Censorship.

Meir Vanunu, Mordechai's brother, lives in London. There is an outstanding warrant for his arrest for disclosing the details of Mordechai's kidnapping.

Britain's royal wives defy critics, seek job satisfaction



Princess Michael of Kent

By Anne Senior
Reuter

LONDON — The women of Britain's royal family are looking for meaningful employment. Not for them a life of only kissing babies and shaking hands. They want independent careers as well, whether people like it or not.

The wives of Britain's princes — with a notable exception in the popular Princess Diana — have found that belonging to the royal family is not all glamour and fan mail.

For Princess Michael of Kent, an Austrian aristocrat who married one of Queen Elizabeth's cousins 13 years ago, and the Duchess of York, known to the public as "Fergie," being a royal wife has brought new opportuni-

ties but also savage criticism. Princess Michael has been accused of being "too regal even for the royal family. The Duchess of York, the flame-haired commoner Sarah Ferguson who married the queen's second son, Prince Andrew, has been accused of not being regal enough.

The job of being wife to a prince is not for the faint-hearted. The British public is hard to please and if you step out of line, royal reporters are ready to pounce.

The princess and the duchess are among the most outspoken members of the royal family and share a desire to make something of their lives beyond being a mother and professional consort.

Critics charge they should be content with the pam-



Duchess of York

pered and privileged existence of a royal lady. If not, there are plenty of royal duties to satisfy the most energetic of career women.

Not so, the princesses say. Both are pursuing writing careers, unashamed of their literary ambitions despite taunts that they would never make it in the publishing business without their royal connections.

A stinging column in the Sunday Times recently said the royals were granting so many media interviews to promote their latest works that "Palace Products Plc" should be given its own television series.

But Princess Michael, 46, and the Duchess of York, 32, have carried on regardless, publicising their new books and defending their right to do their own work.

The princess, born Marie-Françoise de Bourbon, is married to Prince Michael, the second son of Queen

Elizabeth's uncle Prince George and his glamorous wife Princess Marina.

The Protestant Prince Michael had to renounce his place as 16th in line to the throne to marry a Catholic, causing a storm of publicity in Britain and perhaps a lingering resentment against the princess, a striking blonde.

In a newspaper interview about her new book on royal mistresses — *Cupid And The King* — Princess Michael said one reason she attracted criticism was her insistence on telling the truth, which is not always an asset in public life.

Of her royal role, she said: "It's not always amusing. It's not always entertaining. At times it is even boring."

The princess said it was her duty to work for the family even though she doesn't get paid for it — her businessman husband is not entitled to a state allowance. But a heavy workload of engagements has only brought charges that she courts publicity. To critics, she is known as "princess pussy."

"They like to have a bad girl don't they?" The princess said of her press coverage. "And I am a pretty obvious target. But it is not just me. Look at the rough ride Princess Margaret had when she was young. And Princess Anne."

The media's soap opera treatment of the royal family requires villains as well as heroes, said Ros Ballaster, a lecturer on popular culture at the University of East Anglia.

Faces may change, but the roles in the drama stay the same.

Princess Margaret, the queen's socialising sister, was



Princess of Wales

once called a "royal floozy" by a disapproving politician and was often portrayed as a fiery contrast to the queen's calm virtue.

Princess Anne, the queen's straight-talking daughter, got a bad press for years until she threw herself into charity work. She has just written a book on horses but, unlike the other royal writers, has not been accused of cashing in on her status.

Neither have heir to the throne Prince Charles, who sells watercolour sketches through commercial art galleries, or Prince Andrew, a budding photographer.

The Duchess of York, in a radio interview about her book on the lives of Queen Victoria and her consort Prince Albert, said she was hurt by the constant criticism

but gained a sense of independence from her work that strengthened her marriage.

Her previous work, a set of children's books, had a mixed reaction and she was rapped for keeping some of the profits.

"She's actually breaking the royal mould," said Beverley Skeggs, a lecturer in media studies at York University. "Princess Diana was safe. The Duchess of York wants to participate in a man's world and she is censured for it."

Princess Diana, the wife of Prince Charles, brings great professionalism to her work but keeps to a traditionally feminine sphere. "Diana is a public mother. She makes a profession out of her maternal image," said Mr. Ballaster.

Eurospeak becomes deafening as EC summit approaches

By Andres Wolberg-Stok
Reuter

BRUSSELS — European Community (EC) leaders are gearing up for a crucial summit on closer political and monetary links in December and the closer the meeting gets the denser the "Euro-speak" billowing around it becomes.

The language used by EC officials often defies translation into something for the layman to understand. "On occasion, even experts are baffled."

"In other words, efficacy... will depend on the cohesion of external action, the extension of voting by qualified majority the equilibrium of competences and on comitology which is not mentioned in this text," European Commission President Jacques Delors said in mid-November.

A grossly over-simplified explanation is that Mr. Delors was talking about who should be in charge of what in the 12-nation bloc. A full definition would take 20 lines in plain English.

But he made the remarks in a speech to the European Parliament, and Euro-MPs interrupted the address several times with spontaneous applause.

Other examples abound, as in this statement by Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey to his parliament in early November:

"Other aspects on which clear commitments would be required include the progressivity of own resources in future in relation to the prosperity of member states and Community action in structural areas not presently covered, or only partially covered, by the existing funds."

In other words, Ireland, like Spain and to a lesser degree Greece and Portugal, want more EC money. That is called "economic and social cohesion."

Britain prides itself on deflating the more long-winded constructions of its 11 EC partners, but it too can fall into the jargon trap.

"The IGCs will reach their climax at the Maastricht European Council," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in a speech ahead of the EC summit on Dec. 9 and 10 in the Dutch town of Maastricht.

"We do not believe that a larger Community will be able to function effectively, only by treading a federalist road to great centralisation with more decision-making by QMV."

The IGCs, or inter-governmental conferences, are the negotiations the 12

EC states launched last December to draft new treaty on political union and on economic and monetary union (EMU) — the road to a single currency.

Britain, fearful of anything that might chip away at its sovereignty, tenaciously opposes efforts by most other states to bring about more QMV — qualified-majority voting, 10 votes for big countries and a sliding scale down to two for Luxembourg.

More QMV would mean some governments would eventually be forced against their will to adopt new EC laws in a growing number of fields.

Not all jargon comes in mouthful-sized quotes. For

London, a single word — "federal", or "the F-word" — embodies the worst ambitions of states such as Germany which seek to turn the EC into a United States of Europe.

Mr. Hurd and British Prime Minister John Major have repeatedly warned their partners that they will not sign a treaty that contains the word "federal."

Occasionally, Euro-speak derives from its transatlantic cousin — Pentagonese, as spoken among U.S. military chiefs.

Nine of the EC countries make up the Western European Union (WEU), a long-dormant defence group now tipped to become the Community's military arm.

At a meeting in Bonn in

November, they recorded growing agreement on "transparency and complementarity between European security and defence identity and the Atlantic alliance."

"Transparency and complementarity" are the keywords Washington has been pressing its allies to respect. Descrambled, they mean "make sure you keep us and other NATO members such as Turkey or Norway in the picture if you decide to set up your own army. And make sure you don't step on our toes."

Sometimes the meaning can be baffling even if no jargon is used. As Mr. Delors told the parliament, "but it isn't 'oo la, la, la, la', but that's the way it is."

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The clothes dilemma

By Maha Addasi

IF you take the average woman's clothes and place them end to end they might go around the globe one and a half times. Yet, without fail, every single morning every one of these women stands in front of an open closet wondering just what to wear that day.

It used to be that women and men alike would wear their one and only leopard skins every single day of their lives and there was no problem with selecting what to wear everyday. But later on, as women began to go up the ladder of evolution, they figured, somewhere along the way, that clothes could be used to their advantage especially in making other women jealous. So they sent their mates off to hunt tigers for their skin in order to add tiger skin to the leopard skin that they have.

The wardrobes have since grown well out of proportion, and have become the sardine-packed closets of today. Not only are closets packed to the brim with clothes, but the owners of these most of the time clothes would not want to be seen wearing the same outfit twice, God forbid.

So to avoid such a "disaster" from happening, women often go shopping. And often clothes are the only things they own that account for the money they spend. This explains the difference in packing habits between men and women. In movies, when a man gets upset and wants to leave the house, he gets his cheque book, and some money, grabs his coat and he's out the door. But women run straight to their closets and get all their clothes and stuff them in a huge suitcase. This shows where clothes rank for women. They definitely are a priority.

For obvious reasons, it must have been a man who came up with the idea of school uniforms probably to save money on clothes. And I believe the large number of male dress-makers come as a result of men looking out for their own kind. They feel that if they tailor clothes to suit women they will wear them more often.

I also feel that it is fathers who want a sister for their little



daughter, probably to save on clothes. And it is definitely fathers who make sure that their girls keep a certain weight.

It must also be a man who came up with the ingenious idea to tell wives and daughters to shop in their own closets because they must have forgotten what their clothes look like after a year of not wearing them, praying that they would like those clothes, all over again.

No fool like an old one

By E. Yaghi

The cramped bus stood waiting for the last passenger to board. Finally, a gray speckled thin man dressed in a black suit, jumped in the bus. In spite of his fine attire, he had a stray look about him which gave him more the appearance of a drifter than a gentleman wearing a suit. The gear of the bus grated as the cooaled bus driver, overshadowed by the crowd of women, steered his vehicle into the stream of outflowing traffic.

"Well," Khalil said, as his eyes scanned the contents of the bus, "Why are all you women sitting and doing nothing? Come on, sing, clap! We're going to a wedding, not a funeral!"

He began to thump his feet and direct his female band with one hand like a seasoned maestro. After all, he had been proudly ordained the manager of the bus by those who didn't quite know where to place him so he was shoved onto the women's bus while his relatives winked at each other and mocked him behind his back.

The bus lurched down twisting curves and steep hills all the while in tune to the songs of the female folk and occasional thump of their band leader, Khalil. He felt he had been assigned a very important duty and solemnly tried to put forth his best efforts. He failed to hear the women giggle at him. He assumed their smiles meant they were laughing with him so he fluffed his feathers like a rooster in a hen house convincing himself that he was indeed very important.

A mad light glittered in his eyes as he encouraged his audience to sing louder. "More, more!" He screamed, not noticing the haggard look of the by now near deaf driver.

At last, the bus screeched to an abrupt stop, flinging some of the women forward out of their places and thrust Khalil against the door which nearly gave way against the pressure of his weight. Had he been any heavier, he would have found himself face down in a puddle of mud, but as it was, he emerged with a slightly bruised but nevertheless highly inflated ego. A chosen delegation, guided by the maestro, descended the crowded bus in order to fetch the bride.

After much singing the dancing in the street in front of the bride's house, the entourage encircled her and like a tidal wave, swept her away in the bridal car. Khalil hopped along behind the flock of returning women, more eager than ever to try out his steps of the latest techniques of a break dance he had failed to correctly learn while visiting his children in America. The way back to the groom's home became as tortuous as the descent and the small bus chugged and coughed as it struggled up hills, over-filled to capacity with women, children and of course, its manager, Khalil.

Ultimately, the groaning vehicle ground to a halt and the women poured out of it championed by their victorious leader. The driver could be heard saying, "Boy, am I glad they left! What a relief. And who was that crazy man? He acts like an overgrown teenager! What an old fool!"

That night, Khalil danced his heart out. He wouldn't be satisfied with less. Wildly swinging his dancing cane, (former walking stick), he grabbed the groom and orbited the mountain circle with such enthusiasm that passersby looked confused not certain just who was the lucky man. The groom himself adopted a somewhat chagrined attitude, overwhelmed by the over exuberance of elderly energetic Khalil.

Upstairs on the roof of the groom's house, surrounded by a sea of waiting talkative women, sat the bride, perched on top of a chair which in turn was precariously balanced on top of a large teetering table. Conversation was especially flavourable as one woman said to another: "Well, here's the groom's second bride. Some men these days treat females as though they were tissues-when they tire of them, they dispose of them and think nothing of the matter."

"Yes," a second said, "women are considered to be of little value to some men. This is the groom's second marriage. His family didn't like his first wife so they forced him to divorce her. Now they are paying the fees for this wedding too."

"Yeah," a third added, "They got him married, then divorced and now married again all at their own expense and the groom doesn't care because he's not the divorced wife and he's not paying for any of his expenses anyway."

A fourth joined in, "I heard he was boasting that he's the youngest man in his family to marry twice."

"That's considered an accomplishment?" number five asked, perturbed. "That's all he can list as his feats. He flunked school, doesn't have a trade or profession, can't stay at any odd job for long, but he married two. What character! And how's he supposed to support his wife?"

"Oh, like the first one of course. She works, so she'll support him, at least until his family finds an excuse to get rid of her too," number seven offered.

Their conversation was interrupted by a great commotion and a stir of laughter. Up on the roof popped the maestro himself, flinging his cane in the air, break dancing and jerking as though electric shocks bolted through his body. Ducking the swings of the flying cane, the groom appeared at last. Khalil threw down his dancing aide and clutched the groom's arm and escorted him to his place of honour beside the bride. He weaved a wobbly path up to the edge of the table and his purpose now accomplished, hobbled out of the room to break dance yet some more in the meo's section.

Much, much later that evening, he stumbled home and hurried himself on his bed and fell fast asleep in his suit, too tired to change his clothes or check his suit pocket where he had stashed away the sum of JD 200 and which now was empty. He was unaware that someone had picked his pocket and he never heard those who ridiculed him say: "There's no fool like an old fool."

Instead, he snorted in contented snores as he dreamed of his conquests and exploits of manager of the bus, maestro of music, the best break dancer and life of the party.

December birthstone

THE TURQUOISE

Family — A mineral substance containing aluminium, and some copper and iron.

Colour — Green and blue.

Geographical sources — Iran, Egypt, United States of America, and USSR.

Legendary background — This gemstone was worn as a jewel as far back as 3,000 B.C. in Egypt. It was also prized by the lost civilisation of ancient Mexico. Thought to be one of the earliest stones ever mined, it was first found in the Sinai peninsula. The ancients called it turkis or turkeystone because of its route from Persia, through Turkey, and on to Europe, where it was given its present name by the French. Regarded by the Turks and Tibetans as a talisman, particularly for horsemen, it was widely held that the turquoise prevented injury from a fall by absorbing the crack or break, and saving the owner from broken bones. The Persians claimed that the blue of the turquoise would overcome the ill-effects of the "evil eye." Even now in Iran, camels, horses and mules often

have turquoise beads tied to their tails. Because it rejected rivals and guaranteed fidelity of those in love, it was known as the lovers' stone.

Qualities — Prevents all-health and cures depression, as well as assuring prosperity and freedom from financial worry.

Jewellery interpretations — Possibly the oldest pieces of jewellery in existence are gold serpent bracelets, set with turquoise. Found in 1900 in one of the tombs of the Pharaohs, they date back to about 3,500 B.C. In the 19th century the opening of the Suez Canal, and Sarah Bernhardt's success in Cleopatra started a fashion for Egyptian-style jewellery, using turquoise and oxidised silver.

Today — Because of its opacity, the turquoise is mostly cabochon (dome) cut. Its sky-blue colour suits both gold and silver and looked especially well in the form of a ring or a bracelet.

Notable December birthdays — Sir Issac Newton, Louis Pasteur, and Pablo Casals.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 28

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Asphalt Jungle

Starring: Marilyn Monroe

An ex-con and a lawyer mastermind a robbery. When the police get close to unveiling the mystery, the lawyer committing suicide.

Friday, Nov. 29

8:30 Coach

Coach Hayden and Christine go on a ski trip and have to take along coach's daughter and her husband whom the coach dislikes.

9:10 Shakespeare's Macbeth

10:00 News in English

10:20 W.I.O.U.

Bleeds, It Leads

The news staff at Channel 12 argue the importance of airing crime stories to enlighten their audience, and Lucie Hernandez, the sports anchor woman at the station, is murdered.

Saturday, Nov. 30

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

Dr. Ibrahim Mattar is a Palestinian economist from Jerusalem. He will talk about Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

9:30 Life On The Land



Craig T. Nelson stars as college football coach Hayden Fox in the comedy series *Coach* on Channel 2 Friday at 8:30 p.m.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

The Last Hunt

Starring: Robert Taylor

Buffalo hunters fall out with each other. Terse, brutish out-door Western with something to say about old Western myths and a famous ending in which the bad guy freezes to death while waiting to gun down the hero.

Sunday, Dec. 1

8:30 The Golden Girls

Blanche receives the shock of her life when a young handsome man whom one mistakenly takes to be a fan reveals his identity.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Mirror, Mirror On The Wall

Jessica, continues her investigation of the murder of the P.I. and uncovers the murderer to be Yodura's step-son.

10:00 News in English

10:20 All The Rivers Run

This is the first part of the second series of All The Rivers Run. Misfortune is in store for Brenton Edwards and his family.

11:10 Asian Song Festival

Jordan is represented by Mustafa Sha'sha and his wife.

Monday, Dec. 2

8:30 Hey Dad

Nadge and Betty will per-

form a funny magic contest

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News in English

10:20 Gabriels Fire

Wind Ranches

Tuesday, Dec. 3

8:30 Who's The Boss

Inherit The Wine

Tony is invited to Italy to claim an inheritance from his late Uncle Aldo. This means he will soon have the proud task of acquainting Samantha and Billy with their ancestral roots.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

Green House Jungle
Columbo will solve the mysteries behind a fake kidnapping and the murder of Tony.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

8:30 Kate And Allie

Kate and Allie are in the catering business which can be a very sensitive business.

9:10 Cosmos

10:00 News in English

10:20 Equal Justice

Cures

The prosecutors work on the case of the gypsy "queen" accused of theft, and the case of a young man who burned his father's store killing the guard in the fire.

Dumont d'Urville — a lord of the seas

By Camille Hérisson

Two centuries ago, Jules Sébastien César Dumont d'Urville, one of the most famous French navigators, was born on the coast of the Channel. Not only was he a sailor, but he was also a scholar who left the memories of a lord of the seas.

PARIS — "It is the goddess of love," murmured the ship's ensign admiringly, as he bent over a white marble statue, lying on a pile of manure in a goat-shed. It had just been discovered a few inches below ground on that island in the Aegean.

In 1820, Dumont d'Urville, a young officer serving on board the Chevrete, took part in a scientific expedition. He was to describe the discovery of the "Venus de Milo" in his address to the Academy of Sciences, in the following terms:

"The Chevrete dropped anchor in the Milo roadstead on 16th April. On three excursions, I had the opportunity to gather about fifteen plants. On the 19th, I was able to visit the pieces from Antiquity discovered at Milo. Three weeks earlier, a Greek peasant, digging his field, had come across some carved stones. A kind of oiche held a marble statue, two Hermes and a few other pieces. I visited all of it which seemed to me in good taste."

By dint of perseverance and persuasion, Dumont d'Urville managed to persuade the French ambassador to Turkey, to which the archipelago belonged at the time, to acquire them. The white marble woman, a marvel of ancient classical art, which almost ended its days in the harem of a Turkish prince, is today one of the most beautiful works in the Louvre Museum in Paris.

Dumont d'Urville, who was born in Normandy and lost his father at the age of five, became as famous as his Venus. He had attended the

In the steps of La Pérouse

Dumont d'Urville was a navigator, a geographer, an archaeologist, a botanist, an anthropologist and an ethnologist. He spoke Greek and Latin with ease, and knew German, English, and Russian. But he had a difficult character, being touchy and misanthropic and this created a lot of problems for him in scientific circles as well as among his peer sailors.

His reputation was further strengthened in 1828 when, as the captain of a frigate, he was in charge of the Astrolabe on his second voyage around the world (1826-1829). He was given the mission of finding the remains of the shipwreck of La Pérouse, another famous navigator who disappeared in mysterious conditions in 1789, at the beginning of the French Revolution.

On a stopover in Australia, the captain of the Astrolabe heard of a find made by an English sailor, Peter Dillon, who, on an island near Fiji, discovered the hilt of a sword which seemed to have belonged to a French officer. Dumont d'Urville managed to find out that it came from Vanikoro, in the Santa-Cruz archipelago, where, according to accounts by the inhabitants, two ships had been



Jules Sébastien César Dumont d'Urville

washed ashore, in the past.

The fascinating investigation was coming to an end. Using this information, the sleuth-navigator set off for Vanikoro, which did not look like paradise at all. At the bottom of the sea, the sailors on the Astrolabe could see anchors, cannons and cannoeballs, lying in a few metres of water. The discoverer of the Venus de Milo was to bring a few of these remains back to France as proof that La Pérouse had been shipwrecked.

In 1837, Dumont d'Urville set off on his third voyage around the world. He was put in charge of two corvettes, his old Astrolabe and the Zélée. His mission was to discover if there was any land near the

South Pole. His 38 month voyage was a success at the cost of heavy losses in human lives due to dysentery. He explored the coast which he called Terre Adélie, after his wife, the daughter of a clock-maker from Toulon. This is how the French Antarctic adventure began in which Charcot, Paul-Emile Victor and a few others would gain renown.

By a tragic irony of fate, the famous sailor who had braved all dangers on the world's seas, met with a tragic end... on the railway. He died, together with his wife and his last child, in the first catastrophe in the history of rail travel, on the Versailles-Paris line, on May 18, 1842—L'Actualité En France.

A favourite literary son finds his way home

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press

DUBLIN — To the world, Samuel Beckett was one of literature's Nobel Prize-winning greats. But to his fellow Dubliners, he's one of them — an Irish writer who finds the mirth as well as the melancholy in that nightmare called existence.

"There's something about seeing him in his home town with Irish actors," says Michael Colgan, artistic director of the Gate Theatre where a three-week Beckett festival was held this fall.

"It's that rhythm, that cadence. There is a Beckett voice that we believe suits the Dublin voice."

Barry McGovern, a memorable Vladimir in the

festival production of *Waiting for Godot*, said he felt the Irish "have a nationalistic claim on him in some way, and not a bad way. It's a good, solid pride."

Beckett was born in 1906, the second of two sons of a Protestant family in Foxrock, South Dublin.

He was at the forefront of the existentialist and absurdist literary movements and, like Joyce, a voluntary exile from his native land. Writing both in French and in English, he was known equally for his compact, distilled plays and contrastingly dense, allusive novels.

His influence is evident on such diverse authors as Tom Stoppard, David Mamet, Harold Pinter and Athol Fugard.

He died in Paris at the age 83 on Dec. 22, 1989.

A sampling of festival offerings makes clear the Irish empathy between author, actor and audience. While some actors — not to mention spectators — quake before the great theatrical icon of Beckett, the Irish find the humour amid the horror.

It wasn't Beckett jollied up for easy consumption, but a playwright interpreted by a nation able to read the signposts of comedy on the way to cosmic ruin.

In other words, as Beckett wrote in *Endgame* in 1957: "Nothing is funnier than unhappiness."

The festival was the brainchild of Colgan, who met Beckett in the mid-1980s when the Gate presented

Barry McGovern's solo show, *I'll Go On*, based on a trilogy of Beckett novels.

Colgan said he was eager to amend a common perception of the late playwright, who died in his adopted city, Paris, after he had left Ireland for good five decades earlier.

"The image was one of complete and utter pessimism," the expansive Colgan said one evening following a sellout performance of Beckett's 1953 masterpiece, *Waiting for Godot*, starring McGovern and Johnny Murphy.

"He would sit there and laugh and talk about cricket and joke," Colgan said. "He was extraordinary in his ordinariness."

Nowadays, one could

almost say the same of Godot, a work once famously described by the late Irish critic Vivien Mercier as one in which "nothing happens. Twice."

Grounded in its characters' inaction, the drama nonetheless embraces rapid-fire dialogue and vaudeville turns on its way to a nihilistic acknowledgment of the void.

McGovern said Beckett's south county Dublin cadences were redolent "even in his most abstruse works."

As a result, he and Murphy met the script head-on, without resorting to the irrelevant shtick marring the current London production, with Rik Mayall, or New York's controversial 1988 Lincoln Centre production with Robin Williams and Steve Martin.

"Let's go," shouted Murphy's memorably hangdog Estragon before quickly sitting back down, certain of only one fact in life: He is waiting for Godot.

Presenting all 19 Beckett stage plays in nine programmes, the Beckett Festival relied on Irish actors working with an international cast of directors. Conspicuously absent were such American and English exponents of Beckett as Irene Worth and Billie Whitelaw.

Instead, one saw veteran Dublin actress Maureen Potter inheriting Whitelaw's role as an elderly woman rocking herself "of" life and into the motherly embrace of death in the short and shocking "rockaby."

Other highlights were De-

rek Chapman in the all-mimed *Act Without Words I*, "a solo piece positing a world where objects are always just beyond reach; and *Rough For Theatre 1*, a knockabout piece about two lowlifes that ends cruelly.

Colgan said the casting allowed a festival "sub-theme" to emerge — "The birth," he said, "of new Beckett actors."

Where, then, did the festival leave Beckett's reputation in a city also devoted to Sean O'Casey, William Butler Yeats and James Joyce?

"Ultimately, he (Beckett) will be seen as greatest of 20th-century writers," his publisher John Calder said at a symposium, remembering Sam, chaired by film director Jim Sheridan (*My Left*



Samuel Beckett

Foot). Said Colgan: "If Joyce was the giant of the 20th century, then Beckett is the one of the 21st."

"If this festival does anything, it will raise awareness and take the fear out of him. We're saying to people, 'you don't have to be a genius (to understand Beckett).'"

American cartoonist aims satire at Hong Kong politics

By Victoria McGlothlen

Reuter

HONG KONG — Lily Wong and her relatives are a typical Hong Kong Chinese family living in a small apartment. Well, not quite typical because Lily married a foreigner, an American called Stuart.

Those that know them say they are taking a lot more notice of political issues these days after years of being solely interested in domestic problems — and Lily's odd choice of husband.

And plenty of people in the British colony know them because Lily Wong lives with her American husband and sharp-tongued relatives in a comic strip.

She is the product of an American critical of what he sees in Hong Kong — the greed, Britain's bumbling over the return of the colony to China in 1997, and racism. When Larry Feign, born in Buffalo, New York and raised in Tustin, California, thinks of all that he gets really steamed up. Fortunately, anger is one of the tools of his trade.

"The best satire is born of anger. It's venting my spleen about something that really bothers me," Feign said in an interview.

He created the *World of Lily Wong* comic strip, a satirical look at life in this British colony, nearly five years ago. He's been doing it daily pretty much ever since.

The strip is published in an English-language newspaper with a circulation of more than 100,000.

"If I can't come up with a topic I just sit back and think: 'What makes me angry this week?'"

A recent Feign target was the hypocrisy surrounding a decision to force some 60,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong detention camps to go home.

In one strip, a U.S. congressman tells a journalist that the United States deports Mexicans who enter illegally because they do not belong, but Vietnamese blend just fine in Hong Kong.

"Vietnamese, Chinese, who can tell the difference? Hell, all Orientals are alike," the congressman says.

Feign hit out the week before at a lack of consideration among neighbours in Hong Kong, where noise means fun and quiet signals deep, irreversible loneliness.

His topic was karaoke, taped music to sing-along to with lyrics and microphone provided, a Japanese import offering hours for fun for aficionados.

But it's a new, fast-growing way for neighbours to irritate each other — and Feign.

He can just as easily get worked up about corporate greed or Hong Kong's 1997 return to Chinese sovereignty.

"As I see it, (Britain)

wants to get out of Hong Kong with a minimum of fuss," Feign said.

If Britain truly wanted to leave an autonomous Hong Kong in 1997, it would stand up to China, he says.

"They're not going to stand up after 1997 and say to China, 'oh, you're violating the agreement you signed with us in 1984.'"

"If anybody thinks they're going to do that, then they don't live in Hong Kong."

Feign's fans say his strip may be biting, but it's fair.

"He's fairly caustic in his comments, not just on locals but on various (expatriate) groups, be it Americans or Brits," said Philip Crawley, editor of the *South China Morning Post*, which publishes the cartoon daily.

"He's equally insulting to all nationalities."

When Feign joined the *Post* nearly four years ago, the newspaper asked him to make the comic strip more political.

"I wasn't that interested in Hong Kong politics but I had to learn. The more I learned, the more interested I became."

"But I had to go beyond that. I had to get Lily actually working for the government and I got her brother Rudy appointed to the Legislative Council so I could do more hard-core political satire." The council is the colony's policy-recommending body.

In their early days with a smaller local newspaper, Lily and her family were not the political animals they are now.

"At first it was just domestic humour, culture clash, foreign boy meets Chinese girl," Feign said.

Cartoon depictions of life with his Hong Kong-born wife Cathy Tsang perhaps? "In any creative endeavour there's a germ of reality. So, sure, there's some of me and Cathy in there, especially the cultural stuff."

"But our relationship is different from Stuart and Lily's. We've known each other for years, we started out as good friends, we have a little boy — and we actually love each other."

Lily often aims barbs but rarely affection at her smitten American husband. "I've never figured out why she married him," Feign said.

"She only went out with him because she had nothing better to do. It didn't even know if their marriage was consummated."

Lily has just as firm a grip on Feign as she does on Stuart. After five years in Hong Kong and almost as many with Lily, Feign and his wife moved to the United States.

After a year and half they came back.

"I found I missed Hong Kong and I really missed doing my newspaper cartoon. I feel that here is where I belong."

Guitar wizard Coryell turns up the volume again

By Ken Franckling

Reuter

BOSTON — A dozen years after renouncing decibels in favour of acoustic jazz, guitarist Larry Coryell has decided to plug in his amplifier again.

Coryell, who decided in 1979 that playing fusion was ruining his ears, has put together a new semi-electronic band that made its debut this month at scullers, one of Boston's finest jazz rooms, in preparation for an overseas tour in early 1992.

"I'm going more contemporary, more to the youth direction. I haven't worked with an electric bass in a long time and I don't want to lose that aspect," Coryell said in an interview.

His new bandmates are

steps ahead keyboard player Rachel Z, known in an earlier Boston musical life as Rachel Nicolazzo, electric bassist Jeff Andrews and drummer Kenwood Denard.

Coryell, 48, says the idea for this grouping came when he toured in saxophonist Wayne Shorter's band for a month in 1990. He says the "beautiful dynamics" Shorter employed gave him a sense of how to assemble his own electronic band.

This band mixed musical delicacy and intensity in an understated fusion of acoustic and electronic instruments.

When playing acoustic guitar, Coryell is limited by having to sit before a microphone. When he's plugged

in, he's a standup guy who eggs on his band verbally, then hops on one foot during particularly intense guitar solos.

At a recent Boston concert, it was clear that many in the audience were expecting the acoustic Coryell. He sensed it, and played some acoustic interludes during each set.

Coryell said he planned to control the volume and intensity to keep this blend appealing to himself and listeners who have grown used to his blend of jazz, classical guitar, Latin music and the blues.

"I don't want that ear-splitting headache where it hurts when you go home at the end of the night," he said. "I really don't want to lose

what I've been developing in the acoustic realm."

Acoustic playing was the heart of Coryell's performances and recordings throughout the 1980s. He concentrated on solo and duets, throwing in an occasional Bop quartet gig for good measure. Those performances usually included originals, jazz standards and even interpretations of George Gershwin and Maurice Ravel.

"I decided to stick to one thing and really fine-tune it," he said. "I'm a jazz musician who can see the connection between good jazz and good classical music."

A solo recording just issued, "twelve frets to one octave," includes a 36-page booklet in which Coryell dis-

cusses his composition technique and provides transcriptions.

The only accompanists on the disc are his sons, Murali, 21, and Julian, 18. Each sits in for one track. "They both play good," Coryell says. "It gives some variety to the record and allows them to make their recording debuts."

Born in Galveston, Texas, Coryell hit the New York jazz scene in 1965 after graduating from the University of Washington. He succeeded the Hungarian guitarist Gabor Szabo in Chico Hamilton's band and by 1968 had built a solid reputation as a soloist.

Influenced by players as diverse as Charlie Christian and Jimi Hendrix, he has

recorded with the Gary Burton Quartet, Chick Corea, Herbie Mann, John McLaughlin, and Oregon, and made a series of duet recordings with guitarists Philip Catherine, Steve Khan and Emily Remler.

His fine 1970s fusion group Eleventh House was formed with Steve Marcus, Mike Mandel, Randy Brecker, Benny Trifan and Alphonse Mouzon.

Solo playing is entirely different from the group atmosphere, Coryell says, and he needs both.

"When you are a soloist, your dialogue is with the public. When you are in a band, the dialogue is with the other musicians, and the unity of that internal dialogue connects to the public."

Veloso — Brazilian musical rebel after exile and success

By John Wright

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nearly a quarter-century after leaving Brazil under pressure by military rulers, Caetano Veloso continues to tweak the nose of politicians.

"Something is out of order in the new world order," the singer-songwriter laments in a pounding "fora" (out). Scheduled for release before the end of the year in his native Brazil and a month or so later elsewhere.

In a recent interview between late-night recording and mixing sessions in New York, Veloso showed the same rebelliousness at 49 that got him arrested by junta leaders in 1968.

Veloso said he was inspired to write *fora* by a feeling "that I didn't want to participate in the euphoria that capitalism is the definitive form of human conduct" after communism collapsed.

"I never believed in Communist utopias. Nor do I believe that we have arrived at the definitive version of mankind," he said, sitting cross-legged on a chair, a tweed jacket draped casually over his shoulders.

And if fans want to idolise the wiry singer, his song *Estrangeiro* (Stranger-foreigner) cautions: "Some may like a soft Brazilian singer, but I've given up all attempts at perfection."

Veloso shares a niche among Brazilian recording

artists — including Chico Buarque, Gilberto Gil, Joao Gilberto, Tom Jobim and Milton Nascimento — with followings outside their homeland.

Before his September concert appearances in the United States, Veloso toured Italy and Spain. On other occasions, he has performed in France, Japan and other countries.

But success hasn't taken Veloso away from his humble roots outside Salvador, in Brazil's impoverished north-east.

"When you speak about a new world order but live in a city like Rio De Janeiro and spend part of the year in a city like Salvador, you must feel at times a little ironic, at

times a little bitter towards the new world order," he said.

The luscious landscape of both coastal cities is marred by tumbledown shacks, where millions of residents inhabit crime-ridden, precarious "favelas," or slums.

A Veloso composition cries out the tragedy of Brazil's millions of street children, but socially conscious lyrics represent only part of his credits. Veloso has also written some of Brazil's most mournful, touching love ballads.

Never content to settle into tradition, he has distinguished himself in bossa nova, samba, reggae, lambada and rock, among other styles.

In the 1970s, he wrote *Mae*

(Mother) which floats hypnotically through a succession of unconnected, dreamy memories of a past he cannot recapture: "I am a man so alone ... and I never come close to you."

His song *London London* recalls the most forlorn period of his life — his first year in London, where he lived while away from Brazil — when he wrote, "I'm wandering around without knowing who I am. I'm alone in London London with nowhere to go."

The military rulers who overthrew Brazil's elected government in 1964 disliked the "tropicalia" musical movement's politically infused lyrics, so they censored

records and threatened some performers. In 1968, Veloso was detained by authorities for two months and agreed to leave Brazil.

Living in Britain until 1972 gave Veloso his first exposure to foreign audiences, and he gained a following he still doesn't quite understand.

"There are people who don't speak Portuguese and yet adore my music. This always surprises me. People don't understand a word of my Portuguese, but buy my records and love them," he said.

Although Veloso speaks English well, he writes and performs most of his lyrics in Portuguese. He has made a handful of recordings in English.

Toshiko Akiyoshi — east meets west in jazz

By Charles J. Gans

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Toshiko Akiyoshi came to the United States 35 years ago, the chances of a female Japanese bebop pianist making it in the birthplace of jazz seemed quite unlikely.

But at Akiyoshi's 35th anniversary Carnegie Hall concert last month, jazz educator and pianist Billy Taylor praised her as "the first Asian to make a serious worldwide impact on jazz."

Today, the 61-year-old Akiyoshi — as a bandleader, composer, arranger and pianist — is doing more than almost anyone else to enliven the jazz orchestra tradition of Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Gil Evans.

Like Ellington, she has made the jazz orchestra her instrument, writing for the individuals in her big band, particularly its featured soloist, saxophonist and flutist Lew Tabackin, her husband.

Akiyoshi's compositions can pack a swinging Basie-

like punch or create an almost impressionist mood a la Evans with rich textural colours and intricate instrumental voicings.

But what makes her music unique is the way she blends Japanese and Asian influences with American swing and bebop styles.

Akiyoshi feels that jazz lends itself well to such blends with other cultures because it "is a fusion music to begin with — a combination of African and European influences."

"When I came to this country, being Japanese was considered a handicap," said Akiyoshi, interviewed at her Manhattan apartment. "I decided to look at that as my positive quality instead of a negative quality... I tried to utilise something from my heritage so that perhaps I could return something to jazz history."

Being Japanese wasn't the only obstacle she's overcome.

She had to struggle with the notion that a woman's place in jazz was as a vocalist

or supper club pianist. Akiyoshi was the first woman to win down Beat magazine's reader's poll in the big band, arranger and composer categories.

Akiyoshi has also faced the economic challenge of keeping a jazz orchestra together. The Carnegie Hall concert, recorded by Sony, will be the orchestra's first record release since 1986.

The Sept. 20 concert — with guest trumpeter Freddie Hubbard — celebrated the 35th anniversary of her U.S. professional debut at Boston's Storyville Jazz Club.

It was highlighted by the U.S. premieres of two new works commissioned by Japanese cities, *Children Of The Universe* and *Kouroukan Suite/Prayer*.

Children — which Akiyoshi says depicts the search for "common ground" between different cultures — evolves from a classical Japanese motif — evoked by a pair of guest Japanese tsuzumi drummers — into a straight-ahead jazz theme.

Kouroukan — inspired by an archeological site in the

city of Fukuoka which shows that other races from as far away as present-day Iran emigrated to Japan — has a Near Eastern-style theme in the first part and a swinging, gospel melody in the second.

As an encore, the band premiered Akiyoshi's happy shuffle, *How Do You Get To Carnegie Hall?*

Akiyoshi's road to Carnegie Hall began in Dairen, in Japanese-ruled Manchuria (now Dalian in northern China), where she was born in 1929. Her father was a businessman.

At age 7, she began studying classical piano at school.

When World War II ended, her family lost their possessions and returned to Japan. Despite her father's protests — the 16-year-old began playing with a nightclub dance combo in Beppu in 1946.

She decided to become a jazz musician after a friend played her pianist Teddy Wilson's recording of *Sweet Lorraine*.

After moving to Tokyo in 1949, she heard on the U.S.

military radio, a recording of Body and Soul by bebop pianist Bud Powell, who she says "struck my heart" and "became main influence."

In 1953, pianist Oscar Peterson heard her combo during a Japanese tour, and recommended her to promoter Norman Granz, who recorded her for the U.S. Verve label.

Three years later, she arrived in Boston on a scholarship to study at the Berklee School of Music.

"It was very difficult to come to the states... but I think I was too excited to even become nervous," she said.

After graduating, Akiyoshi moved to New York in 1959. She worked with her own Bop trio, and with such jazz greats as Max Roach and Charles Mingus.

She was married for several years to saxophonist Charlie Mariano, and they led a quartet together.

In 1967, Akiyoshi wrote her first big band charts for a concert at a New York City Town Hall. One of the musicians hired for the date was

Tabackin.

They formed their own quartet and married two years later. In 1972, the couple settled in Los Angeles, when Tabackin moved there with Doc Severinsen's *Tonight Show* band.

The Akiyoshi-Tabackin big band flourished on the west coast for almost ten years and toured Japan and Europe.

Its first recording, *Kogun*, in 1974, marked Akiyoshi's first attempt to use traditional Japanese percussion instruments in jazz.

In 1982, the couple tired of Los Angeles and moved back to New York. They reformed the band as the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra.

Akiyoshi also enjoys playing in her own small groups. Last year, she recorded two trio albums for Japan's Crown Records, including *Remembering Bud*, featuring only Bud Powell tunes.

With the orchestra only getting together occasionally, the 51-year-old Tabackin spends most of his time performing with his small combos.

Children who consume calcium 'have lower blood pressure'

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California — Youngsters who consume plenty of calcium, largely by drinking milk, have significantly lower blood pressure and may be warding off heart trouble later in life, a new study suggests.

Although researchers have found a tentative link between calcium intake and blood pressure in grownups, the new research is the first to show that pre-school children seem to keep their blood

pressure down by consuming milk and other calcium-rich food.

The research found that for each glass of milk — or similar serving of calcium — they regularly consumed each day, youngsters' systolic blood pressure was four points lower.

Children who have higher than usual blood pressure early in life often go on to develop hypertension in adulthood.

"We were surprised to see such a strong relationship in kids," said Dr. Matthew W.

Gillman of Boston University. "If this is confirmed, it could be one way to prevent the appearance of hypertension" later in life.

Another recent study found that the newborn babies of mothers who consumed sufficient amounts of calcium during their last three months of pregnancy had lower blood pressures.

Dr. Gillman presented details of the children's study at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association.

The study was based on a

review of the eating habits of 79 boys and girls who were 3 to 5 years old. Researchers found that for each 100 milligrams of calcium consumed by the youngsters in every 1,000 calories, their systolic blood pressures were lower by two millimetres of mercury.

They found no change in diastolic pressures but said that was probably because those are harder to measure in children. Systolic pressure — the higher number — is the pressure in arteries when

the heart contracts. Diastolic is the pressure between heartbeats.

Dr. David A. McCarron of Oregon Health Sciences University, who discovered the link between blood pressure and calcium about a decade ago, called the new work "a fascinating observation."

He noted that animal studies suggest that the younger animals are when they consume calcium, the bigger the impact on their blood pressures during adulthood.

He said the latest work suggests that youngsters who

consume recommended amounts of calcium early in life may improve their chances of avoiding high blood pressure in adulthood.

"We need to avoid letting little kids fail to get the dietary calcium that they need," Dr. McCarron said. "Kids are drinking soft drinks and not getting their milk."

Dairy products are the chief source of calcium.

An eight-ounce glass (240 ml) of low-fat or skim milk has about 300 milligrams of calcium, and a cup of yogurt contains 300 to 400 milligrams.

The children in the study averaged 511 milligrams of calcium for every 1,000 calories. They typically consumed about 1,500 calories daily.

Their systolic blood pressures ranged from 69 to 108 and averaged 92.

The study was based on eating records of the child compiled on 12 days over a one-year period.

"It's a snapshot of one point in time," said Dr. Gillman. "I view these results as preliminary but exciting."

Many doctors now routinely recommend that adults with high blood pressure boost their consumption of calcium. Why it might help, however, is still unclear.

The latest study is part of the Framingham Children's Study, started four years ago. It is made of up third- and fourth-generation descendants of the members of the original Framingham heart study, a landmark work that identified many of the factors that are now widely recognized as important causes of heart disease.

Heart deaths highest for those without love or money

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California — People with few social or economic resources had triple the heart disease death rate of those with money or someone to confide in, a study shows.

"If you are a patient with heart disease, and you have neither love nor money, your prognosis is worse," said Dr. Redford B. Williams of Duke University.

In a separate study, researchers reported what they said were disturbing findings that women were treated much less aggressively for heart disease than men. Both studies were presented at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Williams said that people who were not married and had no one to talk to had three times the heart disease death rate of people who were not socially isolated.

Fifty per cent of the social-

ly isolated patients died within five years, Dr. Williams said. "In contrast, among those who were married or did have someone to talk to, only 17 per cent had died by five years," he said.

Poorer people likewise had nearly three times the death rate of their wealthier counterparts.

After five years, 24 per cent of those with incomes less than \$10,000 per year had died. Among those with annual incomes of \$40,000 or more, only 9 per cent had died, Dr. Williams said.

A number of studies have suggested that low social and economic status is associated with a poorer heart disease outlook. The new study refines the earlier work by showing that social isolation and low income are independently correlated with poor prognosis, Dr. Williams said.

The importance of the finding is that it suggests relatively simple ways to lower the heart disease death rate,

he said. "The social isolation could be a target for intervention by simply having a nurse visit once a month," Dr. Williams said.

The costs of such social support are far less than bypass surgery and other medical procedures used to lower heart disease mortality, he said.

Further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of various social support treatments in much the same way that studies are done to evaluate the effects of lowering cholesterol or blood pressure, Dr. Williams said.

The other study, by Dr. Charles Maynard and colleagues at the University of Washington in Seattle, reported that clot-dissolving drugs used to treat heart attacks were given to 26 per cent of men studied but only 14 per cent of women.

Women were also less likely to receive treatment with inflatable balloons used to open clogged arteries, Dr.

Maynard said.

The findings "call into question whether women are being appropriately treated for heart attacks," he said.

"We don't know why women receive treatment less often than men," he said. "We need to address why this is occurring."

Dr. Williams, meanwhile, said he is extending his findings on low income and social isolation with new research to discover precisely how these adverse factors raise the mortality rate.

One possibility is that they lead to elevation of stress hormones that can have an adverse effect on the heart.

Another possibility is that the disadvantaged people have more difficulty reducing their risk factors, such as smoking and obesity.

And, of course, Dr. Williams said, the poor have less access to medical care and are more likely to be without health insurance.

Researchers develop better drug to save premature babies

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An improved drug to prevent lung collapse in premature babies and perhaps injured adults could save thousands of lives each year, say researchers who developed the medicine and tested it on animals.

After they get federal approval, doctors expect to test the new drug early next year on premature babies and adults, said Dr. Charles

Cochrane, an immunologist at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla.

A recent issue of the journal Science contains a report on development of the drug, known as Synthetic Human Surfactant, and successful tests on prematurely delivered rabbits.

The human lung produces

natural Surfactant, which is essential for keeping tiny air sacs open. Without Surfactant, the air sacs and eventually the lungs collapse, a condition called respiratory distress syndrome.

The ability to produce Surfactant develops just before birth. Infants born prematurely often can't make their own Surfactant. To prevent collapse and keep such newborns alive, they must be placed on respirators and given one of the Surfactant drugs developed during the past decade. Such drugs are dripped into the lungs through tubes.

Existing Surfactant drugs are still being tested on adults whose own Surfactant apparently is destroyed as a side effect of traumatic injuries, blood infections and certain surgeries that trigger

blood infections.

Natural Surfactant contains fatty substances, called Phospholipids, plus four proteins that help spread the fatty material in an even layer so it can effectively prevent lung collapse.

One of the existing surfactant drugs, named Survanta, is derived from cows' lungs, so humans could develop harmful immunological reactions to it. The other existing Surfactant, named Exosurf, is artificial. It contains Phospholipids, but no proteins.

The new drug, developed by Dr. Cochrane and immunologist Susan Revak, should be more effective than existing drugs because it contains an artificial version of one of the four proteins, making it more like natural human Surfactant.

Existing Surfactants are far

better than no treatment and have saved many lives, but "it makes sense that synthetic human surfactant could be better," said Dr. Ronald Crystal, chief of lung research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Surfactant drugs now available "don't work in all cases because they're not the true human form" of the substance, he added.

If the new drug proves as effective in people as it did in dozens of premature rabbits and rhesus monkeys, it "could potentially save thousands of lives per year and reduce the cost of care of premature babies considerably," Dr. Cochrane said. In adults, "it's simply too early to say what lifesaving effect the Surfactant replacement would have."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

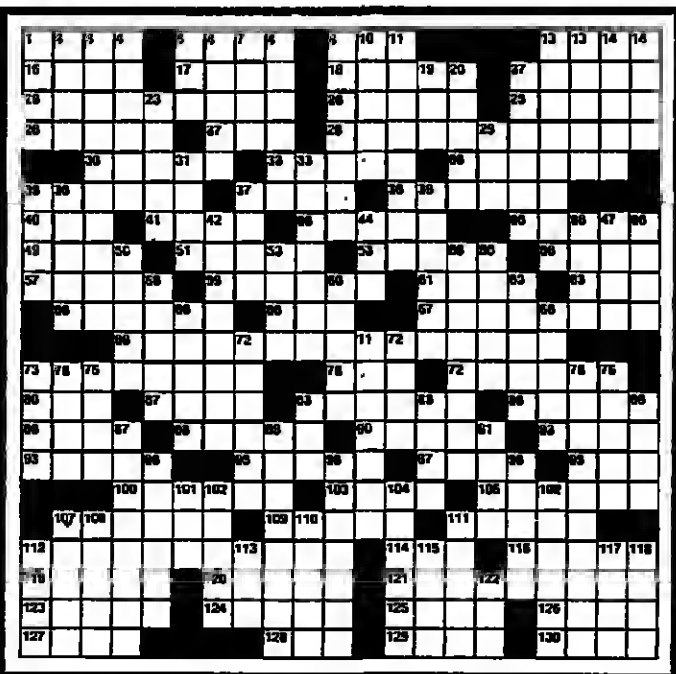
By Olive Dean

- ACROSS
- Chores
 - Eyes
 - Mayday
 - Doll
 - Exchange
 - premiere
 - "Those — the
 - days —"
 - Indignation
 - According to —
 - (correctly)
 - Curb
 - "Dollars"
 - maternal
 - Miss
 - City of defeat
 - Tropical
 - Druid
 - Release pent-up
 - emotion
 - 30 Macho types

- lead of books
- Brickers
- "East —"
- Hillside features
- Flemish painter
- Things results
- Couch
- Environ
- Libraries
- Libraries
- Show birds
- Indian grooves
- Swing around
- Warner's greeting
- Stack
- Sleep like —
- Questionnaire
- word
- Enduring
- Half
- Stately

- Meko hungry
- Conried
- Refrain syllable
- Ancient city in Mesopotamia
- Track
- 118 Sie unsuccessful
- Earlier
- Economize
- Wedding bird
- Wedding
- Letter stroke
- Diving duck
- "Corny hostess"
- Parle
- 126 Messia Loretta
- 127 Liqueur or
- Magritte
- 128 Car of old
- 129 Gite
- 130 Daughter of James I

- Enrich
- Ornamental ball
- Knightly weapon
- Muslim prince
- 118 Sie unsuccessful
- Shorten
- 118 Sie unsuccessful
- Organic
- compound
- Overcharge
- Present affluently
- Byslav
- 124 Eng, river
- 125 Europe's
- neighbor
- 126 Messia Loretta
- 127 Liqueur or
- Magritte
- 128 Car of old
- 129 Gite
- 130 Daughter of James I



Last Week's Cryptograms

- Critical wife reminds joker, "All work and no play makes jack, and plenty of it."
- Chief cooked up good chicken soup using codins of noodles.
- The evening star, a perfect pasoply of colors, is serving as a lavish canopy for the old rinky-dink carnival.
- Try to boldly eliminate two days of a bleak week from worry — yesterday and tomorrow.

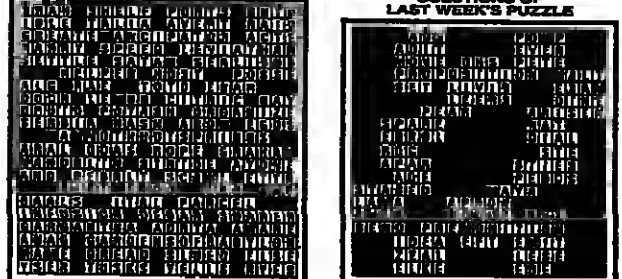
CRYPTOCBAMS

- OXLNCKE RKNVBVTYSZB SJXFC
- SMOSKH BFLBFC BJC BBLVTSCBB FZVXZ
- OVBJ HJCVL TZSEVHFCEBB — By Gordon Miller
- YTJLS YHWKAJH WKKKXVB XHBJC XTVTYOLWW HJWKLHLS ABZJHW OACJWB
- SBXYJZ XBJJ AB VAEBJK IJBB.

— By Earl Ireland

- OR UPQS YNLI BESIST PAABQKPOSB
- ULLHCM TEANSY BEAPTEBLYGM.
- HCB THE RYBM LAWCS CS BWYRCHH SELS
- SHOCK ARDC WC CBR SOB SB TSEM
- SHORT?

— By Ed Huddleston



Diagramless 21 X 21, By James Barrick

- ACROSS
- Commenced
 - Deliver a speech
 - Lubricated
 - Tam-o'-shanter
 - Before high or deep
 - Yoko — Lennon
 - Head coverings
 - Indulge to excess
 - Indian prince
 - 29 Up (disgusted)

- Fill with gladness
- Time
- Pinkish color
- Lika a gymnast
- Cats and ice cream concoction
- 1 A tabris
- Minimize in a way
- Cats and ice cream concoction
- 29 Up (disgusted)

- Pit
- Opp. of WSW
- Hippopotamus
- Express a belief
- Removes the first of
- Meaning
- Where Cardini is
- Brought to bay
- 1 A tabris
- Minimize in a way
- Cats and ice cream concoction
- 29 Up (disgusted)

- Waiver item
- Arise
- Arab big shot
- 77 Time periods
- 59 Pila
- 12 thirteenth abbr.
- 129 Tower of
- 64 Hippodrome
- 65 Smart

- DOWN
- Place for paperbacks
 - "go bragg"
 - Strong wind
 - To — (precisely)
 - Beauty or Roman
 - Opposing one
 - 10 Bard
 - Circle of light
 - 14 Open

- Cheerful
- Untroubled
- Chronic abbr.
- Celebration of the
- Eucharist
- Cohesive
- 21 Playing marble
- 22 Something
- 38 Stupid
- 43 Fencer's specialty
- 45 — Mirror

- Love
- Make tight
- 33 Film special
- 34 More mature
- 35 Of fancy beasts
- 36 Liar
- 38 Stupid
- 43 Fencer's specialty
- 45 — Mirror

- Woman of rank
- Breakfast fare
- Understand
- 32 Dread
- 59 False abbr.
- 59 — avile
- 62 thirteenth abbr.
- 129 Tower of
- 64 Hippodrome
- 65 Smart

Study linking power lines and cancer; also hints at appliance risk

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A study that seems to link childhood leukemia to power lines, hair dryers and black-and-white televisions also hints at possible risks from curling irons, clocks and video games, scientists have said.

Sponsored by the Electric Utility Industry, the five-year, \$1.7 million study is the most comprehensive yet conducted on the possible but unproven health risks of electromagnetic fields, or EMFs — invisible force fields generated by power lines, appliances and everything elec-

trical.

But the findings are somewhat contradictory. The study found that children who live close to high-current power lines may have twice the normal one-in-20,000 chance of getting leukemia. Yet actual 24-hour measurements of EMFs in children's homes suggested only a weak link between leukemia and magnetic fields and no link between the cancer and electric fields.

"The current study adds some support to the hypothesis that electromagnetic fields increase childhood

leukemia risk, but it doesn't resolve the controversy," said Dr. John Peters, a co-author of the report and occupational health director at the University of Southern California (USC).

As for possible cancer risks posed by appliances, "the main thing this study does is raise this issue. It requires more study," Dr. Peters said.

Because there are so many uncertainties, "it would be important for parents not to panic about these results," said Dr. Stephanie London, chief author of the study and a USC assistant professor of

preventive medicine.

Nevertheless, Dr. Peters endorsed a concept called "prudent avoidance," which means reducing exposure to electromagnetic fields when it is cheap and easy. Some scientists have suggested avoiding electric blankets, moving clocks away from beds and sitting at least arm's length from computer screens.

Dr. London said the strength of EMFs drops rapidly with distance from appliances. So standing back from appliances can reduce any potential hazard.

كنا من البصر

Drinking habits of Namibian beetles may help make desert bloom

By Tim Pearce
Reuter

COPENHAGEN — A humble beetle has shown two inventors how to make the arid desert bloom.

Stuart Clyens, an English civil engineer, and Russian industrial designer Boris Berlin, have devised a machine which harnesses the desert's daytime sun and night-time mist to collect water for plants. The growing plants will lower the temperature and attract rain, reversing the desert's remorseless spread.

Now a Danish bank has given Mr. Clyens and Mr. Berlin 500,000 crowns (\$77,000) to bring their plan to fruition.

If it works, their water collector could help bring plant life back to the desert and slow the rise in temperatures around the world.

"In some desert areas, the only moisture is mist," Mr. Clyens told Reuters in Denmark where he and Mr. Berlin have been developing the project. "We've tried to use this mist in the same way as a little beetle in the Namibian desert."

The Namibian fog-basking beetle (onymacris unguicularis), stands on its head on the cold desert dunes early in the morning. Mist condenses on its back legs and runs down its body into its mouth, Mr. Clyens explained.

"The same principle has been used many times before," he said. "The Bible tells how Gideon collected water this way, by leaving goatskins on the ground overnight to catch the condensing morning mist."

Similarly, pilots downed in the desert in World War II used their parachutes to gather life-saving water, he said.

"We thought that if nature has found how to do this after mil-

lions of years, perhaps we could benefit by copying its technique," said Mr. Clyens.

Known affectionately as the "water beetle," the water collector Mr. Clyens and Mr. Berlin have put together consists of a cylinder on top of three hollow legs, with a brush hanging from the cylinder and a wax ball below the brush.

Mist condenses on the glass fibre brush, which is drawn up into the cylinder by a rod moved by the wax, which expands as the sun grows hotter, a principle commonly used to open and close greenhouse windows in Europe, said Mr. Clyens.

As the wax expands further it closes the black-painted cylinder. The baking sun heats the cylinder and the water evaporates.

The water vapour runs down the hollow steel legs, painted with special acrylic paint to speed its flow, and condenses again on contact with the earth, watering hardy seeds packed in grow-bags beneath the water beetle.

So far only a one-fifth scale model has been built, and it has been tested only in laboratory conditions.

But the 500,000 crown (\$77,000) TopDanmark Prize — an annual award for promising inventions won by Mr. Clyens and Mr. Berlin recently — will enable them to build a full-size collector and test it in the Namibian desert.

The machine will stand about three metres high, and should collect six to 10 litres of water a day, Mr. Clyens said. "It must be high and strong enough not to get covered by shifting sand or blown over by the wind," he added.

The two men are still refining the machine, focussing on materials that will be efficient, durable, and will not pollute the desert when the machines eventually stop working.

"We estimate they will cost about a unit if mass produced, and would need to be spaced about 30 to 40 metres apart," Mr. Clyens said. "It's a low-technology and leave them alone for a decade or so."

The most expensive part of the project may be transporting big blocks of earth containing specially chosen seeds and burying them in the desert under each water collector.

Denmark's Ecological Botanical Institute is helping by choosing hardy plants and working out how much water they need while they establish themselves.

The men are hoping weather stations in the Namibian capital Windhoek and in the port of Walvis Bay will provide them with weather data and other information.

Other ways of collecting moisture and making the deserts fertile — as parts of the Sahara were before the last ice age ended some 10,000 years ago — have been tried before.

Several years ago, an Italian created large plastic palm trees with polyurethane trunks, allowing mist to condense on the leaves during the cold desert night and trickle down the trunk, lowering the fierce daytime temperature, Mr. Clyens said.

He himself thought of using a photo-electric cell to cool the earth by harnessing the sun's heat, but abandoned the idea two years ago because the equipment was too sensitive.

The TopDanmark Prize money should enable Mr. Clyens and Mr. Berlin to make a full-size prototype, test it in the desert and modify the design if necessary, a TopDanmark official said.

"Moving to full-scale production will need more money," he added. "But we thought it was a fine idea — just copying one of nature's own systems."

Big Greek corruption trial nears climax

By Stephen Weeks
Reuter

ATHENS — For eight months it has captivated all of Greece with such televised tales as how former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu supposedly pocketed big bribes delivered in tissue boxes stuffed with stolen cash.

Now it's time for the grand finale, the verdict in Greece's biggest corruption trial of the century.

Testimony from an array of witnesses ranging from the Central Bank governor to low-life thugs has been spell-binding.

Final arguments before the 13 judges at the supreme court, set up by parliament during a unique conservative-Communist coalition government in 1989, are nearing conclusion.

Five former Socialist ministers were charged with fraud, bribe taking and embezzlement in the \$200 million scandal which broke at the Bank of Crete in 1988. Mr. Papandreu was also charged with instigating the embezzlement scheme.

The affair has poisoned Greek politics and heavily influenced three national elections.

"It's not the defendants who are on trial but the entire political system and public life," said George Kyrtos, editor of the conservative Sunday newspaper

Eleftheros Typos.

When Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis came to power in 1990, heading the first conservative government in nine years, it was largely due to the bank scandal which had dragged down Mr. Papandreu, his bitter rival of the past 25 years.

Mr. Mitsotakis personally and relentlessly directed the campaign which led to Mr. Papandreu's indictment.

A verdict of not guilty would embarrass the Mitsotakis government.

But a guilty verdict on what has been slim evidence at best would enrage the Socialists and set off a concerted attack on Mr. Mitsotakis, who has a two-seat majority in the 300-seat parliament.

Whatever the outcome, the trial could mark new upheavals in Greek politics, now dominated by the scandal which left the country virtually without an opposition party during the long legal process.

Mr. Papandreu has treated the trial with contempt and stayed at home, calling the whole affair a cheap political vendetta. "None of this mud will stick to me," he said.

His justice minister, Agamemnon Koutsouras, dropped dead while pointing an accusing finger at a witness. His public order minister, George Petros,

broke down in tears.

Ex-Finance Minister Dimitris Tsouvolas, whose courtroom antics have made him a new Socialist hero, told of his humble start as a peanut vendor.

Former National Economy Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis was also accused but is immune from prosecution because he is a Socialist deputy in the European Parliament.

All defendants have asserted their innocence, either inside or outside the court, saying the conservatives and Communists forged an unholy alliance and exploited the scandal to destroy the then-ruling Socialist Party.

The courtroom has often been more theatrical than judicial. At one point a bodyguard for disgraced banker George Koskotas joined lawyers in trying to see how much cash could be stuffed into a jumbo-size box of baby-tissues (nappies) — said to be one way of paying off ministers.

Perhaps the most dramatic moment was the return of Mr. Koskotas, the fugitive tycoon at the heart of the affair, whose meteoric banking career paralleled the Socialists' rise to power in 1981.

President of the Bank of Crete when the scandal broke, Mr. Koskotas gave up a two-year fight against extradition from the United States and appeared as the

star prosecution witness.

Viewers were riveted by the televised court proceedings.

Cafes and tavernas switched their screens from soccer games to the supreme court after Mr. Koskotas vowed to give two months of detailed testimony.

He tantalised the public by claiming he had cast-iron proof Mr. Papandreu masterminded the scheme to skim millions of dollars from interest payments on state accounts at the Bank of Crete.

But two bulging envelopes Mr. Koskotas showed up with proved to be stuffed with little more than fading newspaper clippings and one note purportedly written by Mr. Papandreu but judged an amateurish forgery by court experts.

Mr. Koskotas testified at length about his humble origins as a house painter in the United

States and dwelt as little as possible on 64 felony charges filed against him there in 1979, including embezzlement, forgery, tax evasion, civil racketeering and fraud.

After seven days he was sent to Korydallos top-security prison to await his own trial.

Since the trial opened in March, court observers say no "smoking gun" has been found to link Mr. Papandreu indisputably with the scandal which led to his crushing election defeat in June 1989.

As if sniffing embarrassment for the government in the wind, Mr. Papandreu, 72, a flamboyant maverick who delighted in tweaking the nose of his American and European allies, held a mass rally in Athens this month and called for immediate elections.

Jordan to proceed as scheduled

(Continued from page 1)
delegation as the case was during the first round which was held in the Spanish capital.

Another crucial element has entered the fray with the announcement by the U.S. State Department on Tuesday that it will not issue entry visas to members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to attend the talks.

U.S. refuses to budge on date

(Continued from page 1)

plan for Washington talks. Syria has not answered and the Palestinians were still seeking U.S. guarantees that some advisers would be granted visas to Washington.

However, Israel became the only state to say it would not attend the meeting planned for next week. And its request for quickly shifting talks to the Middle East was a direct challenge to the U.S. call for unconditional acceptance.

Israel wants talks held in the region, preferably including the Jewish state, to underline its acceptance by the Arab World. Arab countries object to enhance-

The advisors to the Palestinian delegation include PLO members. The delegation had sought American assurances that the advisors will be given entry visas and easy access to the actual negotiating team and the entire team will be granted the same facilities and treatment as were accorded to it at the opening of the peace conference in Madrid last month.

ing Israel's status until there is progress on return of occupied Arab land.

The statement said Israel did not want to negotiate in Washington because the Arab delegations were looking to the U.S. government to apply pressure on Mr. Shamir for concessions.

Spokeswoman Tutwiler made clear Tuesday the United States wanted "yes" or "no" answers. She also said Washington would entertain no conditions and give no promises in exchange for talking part.

"Our proposal is out there," Ms. Tutwiler said. "We are not accepting conditions."

Abdul Shafi

(Continued from page 1)

vision the Damascus talks dealt with coordinating the stands of Arab states involved in the peace process before the start of the bilateral talks in Washington Dec. 4.

Dr. Abdul Shafi described the outcome of the talks in Damascus as fruitful.

He said the composition of the Palestinian delegation will not be changed "although in principle changes might take place in accordance with need."

He said the U.S. had objections to some Palestinian personalities — meaning PLO members. But he added, "in my opinion this should not stand as an obstacle because there are Palestinians who could carry out the required role."

Dr. Abdul Shafi told Reuters earlier Palestinians hoped Washington would reconsider its position not to grant visas to PLO leaders acting as advisers.

"I hope this will not be final and we still expect the Americans to treat us on the same basis as the other delegations."

The United States said Tuesday it would maintain its entry ban on PLO members despite Palestinian demands that they be allowed to attend the talks in Washington.

The United States severed its dialogue with the PLO last year after the organisation refused to adequately denounce a failed raid on Israel by Palestinian factions.

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The Rozana

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Rallytour set for Friday

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The "Aqua-Pure Rallytour" organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) will set off from the club's headquarters at 9:30 a.m. Friday with more than 50 drivers participating in the last motor sports event of the year.

This rallytour is the third such event organized by the RACJ this year. The event has drawn many competitors as there are no set conditions or specifications for the participating cars. Moreover, the whole course of the rally will be on asphalt roads and does not depend on high speed. The rallytour will have morning and afternoon rounds with a lunch break at RACJ at noon.

The RACJ has decided to include the rallytour in the Jordan Drivers Championship and therefore might well affect the overall standings which Naser Bustani leads with 170.5 points followed by Ghazi Bilal and Ma'rouf Abu Samra with 146 points each.

Kankkunen heads for title after Sainz crashes

DARLINGTON, England (R) — Juha Kankkunen looked set for another world title, taking the lead in the RAC Motor Rally after rivals Didier Auriol and Carlos Sainz both crashed in the Kielder Forest, near the English-Scottish border.

Auriol lost the lead when his Lancia rolled off the road. It took him 34 minutes to get re-started and the Frenchman dropped to 13th.

World Champion Sainz slipped from second to third after spinning off the road on the 28th special stage of the British leg of the World Championship.

He incurred 40 seconds in late-stage penalties as the team changed the radiator and the head gasket of his heavily damaged car.

With one day left, Kankkunen was a comfortable five minutes 22 seconds ahead of Sainz, a third world title firmly in his sights.

To keep the championship, Sainz has to finish in the top five and ahead of the Finn. But the Spaniard admits it is beginning to look unlikely even if the car can survive another day.

"I'm still driving to beat Kankkunen," said Sainz "but I have to save the car."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Desert Orchid beaten again

HUNTINGDON, England (R) — Britain's most famous steeplechaser Desert Orchid was upstaged again by Sabin du Loir, who clinched his fourth victory over the grey at this small country track Tuesday. Desert Orchid, who will be 13 in January, jumped well enough but showed none of the old sparkle. Norton's Coin, the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, forged past him and though the grey rallied a little, he was forced to settle for third, beaten four lengths and a short head. The event was a warm-up for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Dec. 26 when Desert Orchid bids to win it for a record fifth time. But Sabin du Loir, 7-4 on favourite to Tuesday's race and highly rated by champion Jockey Peter Scudamore, will again be in opposition.

Penalty shoot-out makes cup history

LONDON (R) — Fourth division Rotherham and Scunthorpe made English Football Association (F.A.) Cup history when they were involved in the first penalty shoot-out in the competition's 120-year history. The teams were level at 3-3 after extra time in their first round replay and under new rules the match went to a shoot-out instead of another replay. Rotherham won 7-6 to earn a second round trip to Burnley or Doncaster, also of the fourth division. Minor league side Telford beat third division Stockport 2-1 in their first round replay, both the Telford goals coming from a 300-mile (480 km) round trip while working earlier in the day. At Windsor, in another first round match, Geoff Chapple, manager of last season's giant-killers Woking, separated players after Woking won 4-2 to a match between two minor league sides.

Japan Cup winner sold for \$2.5m

TOKYO (R) — Japan Cup winner Golden Pheasant has been sold to a Japanese breeder for \$2.5 million, a spokesman for the buyer said Wednesday. Zenya Yoshida of Shadai Farm agreed to buy the five-year-old thoroughbred from American Bruce McNeil after his 1-1/2-length win Sunday, the spokesman said. "The new owner has not decided yet whether to use the horse as a stud here in Japan or to race it in the United States next year," he said. Golden Pheasant is the second U.S. thoroughbred bought by a Japanese breeder after winning the Japan Cup. The 1988 champion Pay The Butler was brought to Japan earlier this year and died of injury in July after the breeding season.

Top Chinese boxer seeks asylum

SYDNEY (R) — One of China's top boxers has gone into hiding in Sydney hoping to be granted political asylum or refugee status, a spokesman for a Chinese pro-democracy group in Australia said Wednesday. Yuan Qing-Hai, Captain of China's team at the recent World Amateur Boxing Championships in Sydney, slipped away from the rest of the eight-man team Friday as they were about to leave Australia. Jeffrey Yo Zheng, president of the Chinese Alliance for Democracy, told the Australian Associated Press news agency. "At the moment, he is in hiding in Sydney," he said. "We are still thinking about his safety because we believe the Chinese consulate will try to find him." Yuan, a 24-year-old military policeman who fights as a welterweight, contacted the pro-democracy group during the championships and said he wanted to stay behind, Mr. Zheng said.

Taylor warns against move to Japan

LONDON (R) — England manager Graham Taylor warned his players Tuesday that their international careers could be over if they joined the new Japanese Soccer League. "I would never say to any player that because he went to Japan to play, he would never play for England again," said Taylor. "But anyone with serious England ambitions should be aware of the problems. Anyone who went would be seriously curtailing his international ambitions. I just don't see how it could work." Taylor's warning comes after England captain Gary Lineker signed a deal with one of the 10 Japanese clubs in the new league which starts in March 1993. Lineker said he would and his England career after the European Championship finals next June. Japan, who want to stage the 2002 World Cup, are keen to start off their professional league in 1993 with major international signings.

Istanbul to bid for 2000 Olympic Games

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul will definitely bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, the president of the Turkish National Olympic Committee, Sinan Erden, has confirmed. "A formal bid will be made before April 1992," he said. Istanbul governor Hayri Kozakcioglu said: "We have already reviewed existing sites and we presently have the capacity to meet 60 per cent of the needs." Both men were at the General Assembly of the Association of European National Olympic Committees which was addressed by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

JORDAN BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There were no surprises in the eight matches of the first division basketball championship's second week but there was certainly some improvement in the performance of newcomers Al Karak and Al Ashrafiah.

In the most exciting match of the week played Tuesday at Al Hussein Sports City in Irbid, Al Jazireh scored a last minute win of 88-77 over Al Hussein. Al Hussein had managed to stop Al Jazireh from scoring and finished the first half to their advantage at 50-41.

However Al Jazireh, through man-to-man defence and fast breaks lessened the score difference to their advantage at 65-62 and managed to secure their win only in the last minute of the match.

In another match, Al Orthodoxy displayed their might to newcomers Al Ashrafiah who seem to have improved their play.

Al Orthodoxy ended the first half 55-21 and won the match

119-47.

Meanwhile at Al Ahli court in Amman, Al Jallil beat Al Karak 84-37. Al Jallil finished a moderate and slow first half at 32-28. In the second half, Al Jallil expanded the difference through a tighter defence which the less experienced Al Karak could not put up with as Al Jallil won the match.

In Tuesday's fourth match at Al Orthodoxy court, Al Ahli scored a most convincing win over Al Watan with a big score of 104-37. Al Ahli won the first half 59-23. In the second half, Al Watan could only score 14 points while Al Ahli scored 65.

The other four matches played Sunday were characterised by the determination of the underdogs to play their best and not be underestimated.

Al Ashrafiah surprised Al Jazireh at the beginning of the match but Al Jazireh ended the first half 45-25 after a series of fast breaks and turnovers. Al Jazireh's experience paid off in the second half as they won the match 110-51.

In the other match played in Irbid, Al Hussein surprised Al Ahli as they led 29-28 until the

17th minute but Al Ahli finished the first half to their advantage 43-34.

Al Hussein's many personnel fouls hampered their play and defensive ability in the second half as Al Ahli managed to expand the score difference to win the match 92-67.

In another development, Al Karak surprised Al Watan and put up a good fight as Al Watan won the first half 28-22 at Al Ahli court in Amman. Al Karak and Al Watan alternately scored as Al Karak played with elevated spirits but lost the match 63-55.

In Sunday's fourth match played at Al Orthodoxy court, Al Orthodoxy scored an expected victory of 101-65 over Al Jallil with the first half ending 59-33 for Al Orthodoxy.

The next four matches will be played Thursday. Al Watan will meet Al Jallil and Al Hussein will play Al Orthodoxy at Al Hussein Sports City in Irbid, while Al Ahli will clash with Al Jazireh at Al Orthodoxy court and Al Karak will play Al Ashrafiah at Al Ahli court in Amman.

Confident Americans get ready to face France in Davis Cup

PARIS (R) — Andre Agassi says he is "on fire" and Pete Sampras is quietly confident as the U.S. titleholders gear up for the Davis Cup final against France starting Friday.

The contrast in character between the flamboyant Agassi and the unflappable Sampras could hardly be greater but the message since they arrived in France is the same — the Americans have expectations of victory.

After a first training session at Lyon's Palais Des Sports, where the tie will be staged indoors on a synthetic supreme surface, Agassi was enthusiastic itself.

"It was feeling the ball perfectly from the first shot I played," he said. "The court is very good. The bounce is regular. I felt confident right away and that excites me a lot."

Agassi said he felt "on fire" as he did when he played brilliantly to pull the United States through a tough semifinal tie with Germany in Kansas City in September.

"I want to finish the year in style and go home to enjoy my vacation. I think I'll play as well as I did against Germany," he added.

Sampras, recently crowned ATP Tour champion in Frankfurt, will be making his Davis Cup debut but his superb form of recent months and his ice-cool temperament should stand him in good stead when he plays before a potentially hostile home crowd.

"I would have liked to work my way up to a final," he said. "It will be a feeling I've never had before. It will be interesting to see how I'm going to react to the

pressure and the crowd."

"But I had a taste of that in Lyon and Paris already and I came through okay."

Sampras met French cup squad members Olivier Delatire and Guy Forget in recent finals in the French cities, winning the first easily and losing the second in a tight five-setter when Forget got the benefit of some questionable line calls.

Agassi and team captain Tom Gorman have no doubts of Sampras' ability to rise to the occasion. "I have confidence that Pete

will come through," Agassi said.

"He won the masters and I was in the semifinal. I don't think we could be better prepared than that."

Gorman said his entire squad, including experienced doubles pair Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, were feeling relaxed and confident.

But he conceded the task would be harder than last year's final against Australia. "Last year we were at home on indoor clay which was a huge advantage," he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Show that you are ready, willing and able to put lofty principles into execution by attending services of your choice. Prophetic understanding needs to be nurtured too.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can get out in the world of activity and really see and be with good friends who have in their power to aid you gain some long sought wish.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you find that you are able to contact that official who has the opening that you would like that will give you the chance to express your finest talents.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are quite a number of interesting events with which you can gain the good will of persons who think very differently from what you do.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your interest in the removal of obligations that have been a source of concern can now be your method of putting your relations with others in order.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are now able to find out exactly what your partner expects from you in some up to date decisions that can be your joint motivating policy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever makes you feel you can do whatever is required of

you is just great for you now so make a point to plunge into whatever faces you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Lots of fun and good time can be yours during free hours if you will get chores quickly in back of you and get out with congenial companions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can now find out what has been on your family's mind that has been upsetting him/her and can replace with a whole new satisfactory accord.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over the best way you can get those you admire to go along with you in some venture that is important to you and hold all possible appointments.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get into the ways and means by which you can utilize recently discovered ways to forge ahead by showing you are the one who thinks modern.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is your day to get out in the world of action, to be very, very social and to let your personal contacts know what they can do for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are some highly interesting facts and figures you can get that can be very helpful to you but it is up to you to obtain them secretly from an expert.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury goes retrograde today so this is the period when you can deal with all your unfinished business from the past and work out settlements but don't start new activities with new players.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The friends now yours may not entirely comprise those who have the know-how to put into motion any projects that are of a current nature.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get off to see those bigwigs of far-reaching influence and far-reaching vision and get them to give you ideas how you can update your activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are inspired anew now to gain your aspirations by some positive actions that bring you closer to your hearts desire and your potential success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your moment to make sure you are the one who does get right into the new methods that can make your obligations easier to get behind you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You want to make some new arrangement with an associate so that your joint interests can be performed in a better fashion but now is not the time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you are able to gain the good will of one in power by the manner in which you yourself

handle your duties and without shirking any promises made.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some very pleasant moments if you will make a special point to ooze all that charm attractiveness for which you are so noted.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make sure now you do whatever is of foundational importance to you and show you are the one who does believe in fair play to its boundaries.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your daily routines can be pretty much a bore now but if you will show how much you value having them by doing them efficiently you win much praise.

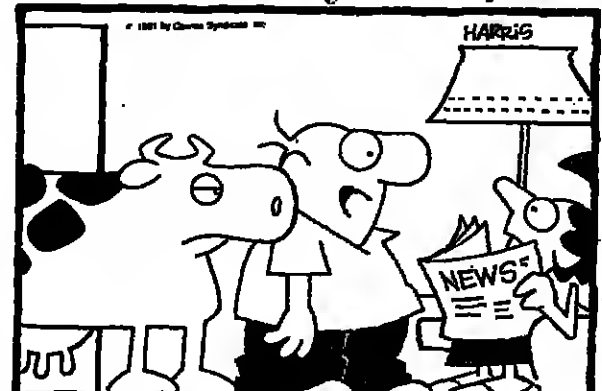
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your own desires are not as close as you would like but if you carefully think out ways to get them instead of rushing into a new plan.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now find that you are the one who requires some additional health measures so don't go off on a tangent and stir up more activity for yourself at the moment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are so many private concerns that you hardly know which to concentrate on first but so long as you are objective and do not feel sorry for yourself all as well.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

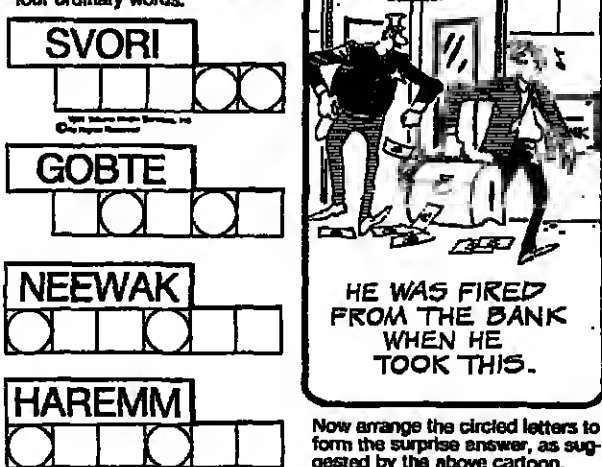


"I was gonna get a dog, but then I remembered that women need lots of calcium!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

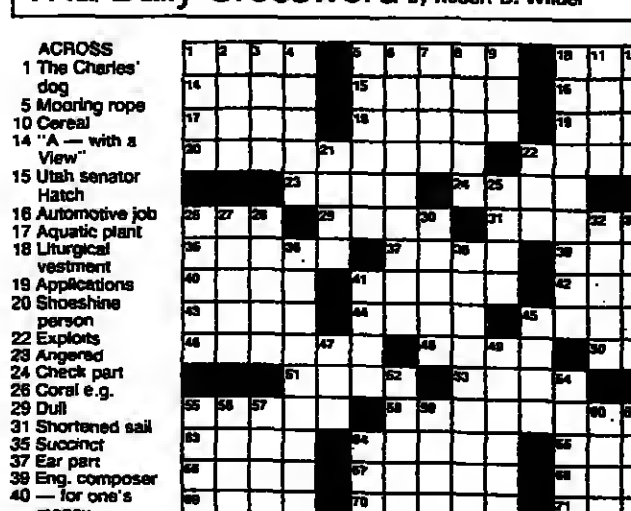
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: HIS (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TANGY DIZZY TUSSE NOTIFY
Answer: How people learn ice-skating — IN SEVERAL "SITTINGS"

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder



ACROSS
1 The Charles' dog
5 Missing rope
10 Cereal
14 "A" — with a view
15 Utah senator Hatch
16 Automotive job
17 Aquatic plant
18 Urgent vestment
19 Applications
20 Shoeshine person
22 Exploits
23 Angered
24 Check part
25 Coral e.g.
29 Dull
31 Shortened sail
35 Succulent
37 Ear part
38 Eng. composer
40 — for one's money
41 Remown
42 Activity
43 Venus de —
44 Legendary knowledge
45 Concert hall
46 A feast
48 Baseball league: abbr.
50 — Moire's
51 Half a fortnight
53 Kimer subject
55 Wash
58 "The —"
63 Dugout
64 Br-az. state
65 Confederate
66 Poke around
67 Actor Warner of old
68 Fourth dimension
69 Awesome
70 Follow
71 Kilt
DOWN
1 Stead
2 Song for one
3 Take-out words
4 Valuable violin
5 Certain supply ship
6 Plated animal
7 A-brac
8 Defiants
9 Vane letters
10 White murderer
11 Deception
12 Smeering
13 Loch —
21 Hilder. Scot.
22 Owed
25 Low card
26 Imprint
28 A — (Assault)
30 Kaiser's place of exile
32 Cooked in oil
33 Follow
34 Consider
36 Fairy tale girl
38 Abbe
41 Kind of club
45 Cassini
47 Shes width
49 Star parts
52 Marquis
54 A Muse
56 Cowshed
58 — Ben Achmed
57 Pacific Island
59 Comparison word
60 Lamb
61 "Desire Under the —"
62 Russ.
64 Kind of fish

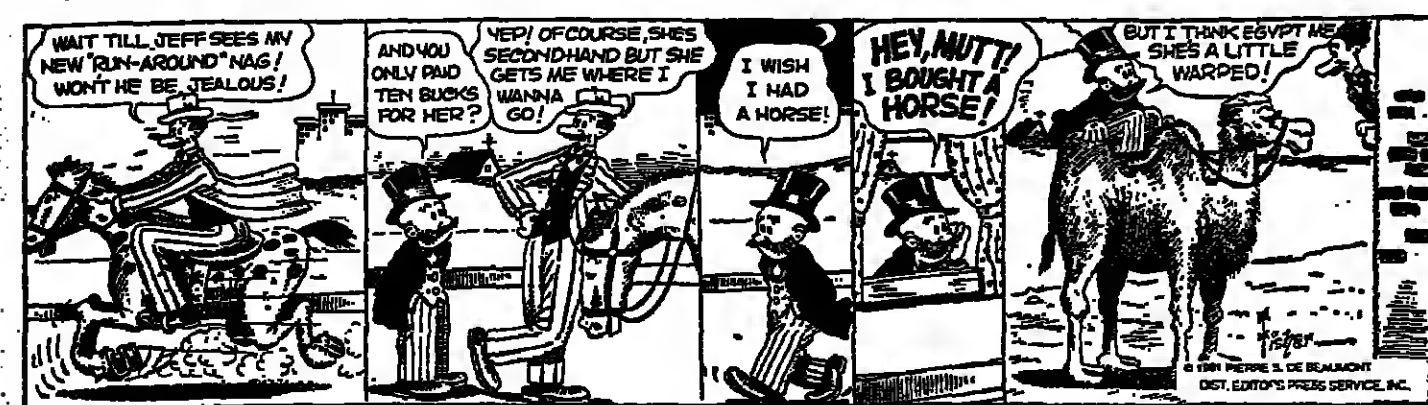
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHCH
© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

FIND THE RIGHT PITCH

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 9 4 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ J 7 6 2
EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ K 8 5
SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 7
♥ A K Q
♦ 7 5
♣ Q 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Bridge and music have certain things in common. If you're just a little off-key in your playing, the results are awful. South's pitch was faulty, and the result was that a sure-trick game went down.

This auction would be duplicated at most tables where natural methods were being used. Unfortunately, we think that might hold true for the outcome as well.

Declarer won the opening heart lead, drew trumps in two rounds, then cashed out the remaining high

hearts, discarding a club from dummy. Next came a diamond finesse,

losing to East's king. After a diamond return, declarer was forced to break clubs and, as the cards lie, forfeiting three tricks in that suit was inevitable. As a result, declarer went down one in a contract that should have been fulfilled.

Declarer was lured to defeat by a poor choice of discard and an unnecessary finesse. Have you spotted the line that must land the contract even if the cards lie as badly as in the diagram?

After drawing trumps, declarer should cash out the hearts — but he must stuff a diamond from dummy! Now ace of diamonds and then the queen gives up on the finesse, but because the red suits have been stripped from both the closed hand and dummy, whichever defender wins the king of diamonds is trapped in an endplay.

If that defender leads a red suit, declarer ruffs on the table while discarding a club from hand; so losses only two club tricks. And if the defender attacks the club suit, two tricks there are all East-West can collect. Too easy, as long as you don't get distracted from your goal.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 26/11/91	Tel Aviv Close 27/11/91
Sterling Pound	1.7740	1.7795
Deutsche Mark	1.6110	1.6055
Swiss Franc	1.4250	1.4242
French Franc	5.5020	5.4815
Japanese Yen	130.10	129.23
European Currency Unit	1.2620	1.2675

USD Per 100
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.00	4.87	4.87	4.93
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.43	10.43	10.43
Deutsche Mark	8.85	9.37	9.37	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.68	8.00	7.93	7.81
French Franc	9.75	9.68	9.68	9.56
Japanese Yen	6.18	6.12	5.67	5.75
European Currency Unit	10.06	10.18	10.18	10.16

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Alkal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	365.75	6.95	Silver	4.09	.089

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6600	0.6820
Sterling Pound	1.2063	1.2123
Deutsche Mark	0.4220	0.4241
Swiss Franc	0.4764	0.4785
French Franc	0.1236	0.1242
Japanese Yen	0.5254	0.5280
Dutch Guilder	0.3746	0.3765
Swedish Krona	0.1153	0.1159
Italian Lira	0.0559	0.0562
Belgian Franc	0.02048	0.02055

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7740	1.7830
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1816
Kuwaiti Dinar	---	---
Qatari Riyal	0.1840	0.1850
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2070
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7490
UAE Dirham	0.1842	0.1850
Greek Drachma	0.3550	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4800	1.4950

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	25/11/1991 Close	26/11/1991 Close
All-Share	124.74	125.03
Banking Sector	104.87	104.76
Insurance Sector	126.90	126.63
Industry Sector	154.06	155.10
Services Sector	138.94	138.74

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7720/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1371/76	Canadian dollar
	1.6080/90	Deutsche mark
	1.6555/65	Dutch guilders
	1.4228/38	Swiss francs
	33.10/15	Belgian francs
	5.4875/25	French francs
	121.3/1214	Italian lire
	129.53/65	Japanese yen
	5.8800/50	Swedish crowns
	6.3290/340	Norwegian crowns
	6.2500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	367.00/367.00	U.S. dollars

Paris asks Bonn for breathing room on interest rates

PARIS (R) — France, desperate for stronger economic growth to fight record unemployment, urged Germany Tuesday not to push interest rates any higher. Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy, who was forced to raise French rates last week to protect the franc said Germany should keep the interests of the world economy in mind when setting monetary policy. Nervous financial markets would also be soothed if it was clear that the cost of money in Germany would not rise further. "I would like the German authorities to be attentive to the trend of the world economy and the financial markets," Mr. Bérégovoy told a news conference. He hoped the recent slide in the dollar, which dampens German inflation by reducing import prices, would obviate the need for the Bundesbank, Germany's powerful central bank, to tighten its grip on credit any further. "There's no reason today for the Bundesbank to raise its interest rates," Mr. Bérégovoy said.

German Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann expressed similar sentiments in London Tuesday when he said he did not expect German rates to rise. He hoped they would fall next year.

Mr. Bérégovoy and other EC finance ministers are currently forced to live with punishingly high interest rates because their currencies are effectively pegged to the mark via the European exchange rate mechanism.

Mr. Bérégovoy tied the recent turbulence on stock and currency markets to the wide gap between U.S. and German interest rates, which have lured money out of the dollar and into the mark. He pleaded for a narrowing of the gap in the interests of the world economy but left no doubts that the onus was principally on Germany to cut its rates.

"We have an obligation to maintain international financial stability and Europe has particular responsibilities," he said.

Church leader calls for redistribution of Brazilian wealth

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (R) — A Roman Catholic church leader has made a plea for a fairer distribution of Brazil's wealth, saying 10 per cent of the people had almost 50 per cent of the national income. "We need a concerted effort now to give our people decent living conditions," Dom Luciano Mendes de Almeida, president of the Brazilian National Conference of Bishops, told a forum on the country's economic and social problems. "The realities of the last few years have left us sad. Almost all the administration of money in this country is suspect," he added. Citing government statistics showing that 10 per cent of the population had 49.6 per cent of the national income, Bishop Mendes said the division was no longer between rich and poor "but between very rich and very poor."

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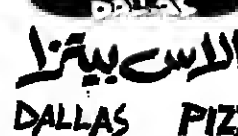
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Kuwait works on cleaning banks from about \$24b of bad debts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to bail out five troubled commercial banks and investment firms with bad debts estimated at up to \$24.5 billion, bankers said Wednesday. They said the central bank had submitted proposals to the government to clear the debts. A ministerial committee approved the plan in principle and referred it to experts to come up with a final recommendation. Bankers said under the proposals the government would assume responsibility for debts by issuing bonds, expected in a few weeks. "The concept has been accepted," said Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank. Sheikh Sultan said the banking system should be set straight and start again with clean slate. "Once banks have cleaned their balance sheets they must follow the universal banking procedures unlike previous years." He said the government should no longer provide a financial prop — "if one bank falters, it should liquidate itself."

Bankers said the initial proposal involved issuing a series of bonds with a repayment schedule over 20 years and an interest rate ranging between five and eight per cent with a two-year grace period.

Economists said that after the government had cleared the bad loans it planned to merge under-capitalised commercial institutions, rolling two or three into one if necessary. The emirate had too many banks, 11 including those in trouble.

The merger plan, long mooted, was now under serious discussion. Bankers said the government believed it was time to implement such a move, especially now that the population had dropped by half to one million following Iraq's invasion in August last year.

The Kuwaiti government and bankers believe the clearance of debts would help the economy, ravaged by the invasion and seven months of Iraqi occupation.

"The economy cannot start going until this is done. The bank books should be cleaned," Sheikh Sultan said.

Economists say the emirate's banks have been exposed because of long-standing debts, failure to collect on loans, a fall in the speculative value of their stock and capital flight.

Apart from Iraq's invasion and accumulation of bad loans, the emirate's banks problem go back to 1982 when Kuwait's unofficial secondary stock market, the Souk Al Manakh, collapsed after a wave of speculative buying based on post-dated cheques.

The banks, which had 40 per cent of their investment portfolio tied up in the souk, were still

saddled with around 1.5 billion dinars of debt when Iraq invaded Kuwait last August, according to Kuwait's leading economic think-tank Al Shail.

That exposure has been compounded by a further four to five billion dinars in outstanding loans.

Economist Jasssem Al Seadoun of Al Shail said political considerations were behind the government decision to clear out bad loans.

Economist Amer Al Tamimi said if the state did not write off the bad loans, banks would run into difficulties and some would become insolvent.

Apart from the healthy National Bank of Kuwait, the government has been backing all the banks by underwriting their provisions, guaranteeing shareholder funds, placing interest-free deposits and making undisclosed direct subsidies.

U.S. says U.N. needs reform not new money

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, rejecting U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's call for a 10.7 per cent increase in the main United Nations budget, said Tuesday the world organisation needed reform not new money. "Rather than increased calls for new money, the U.N. secretariat should focus on better utilisation of existing funds," the U.S. State Department said in a statement. "This would include review of ongoing programmes and activities so that resources could be freed up for new high priorities," it said. It noted the secretary-general's report on the U.N. financial situation illustrates the urgent need for more reform and said Washington hoped to work with Mr. Perez de Cuellar on this need. "Adding more financial obligations to U.N. member states will not help the problem," the State Department said, adding: "Clearly this is beyond the tolerance of member states." The State Department also rejected a proposal to impose interest charges on countries lagging behind in their U.N. assessments and was cool to a proposed \$1 billion peace-keeping fund. Mr. Perez de Cuellar advocated Thursday a 10.7 per cent increase in the main U.N. budget and said the organisation would run out of money next month because so many countries had failed to pay what they owed. "Saying U.N. finances were being stretched by new responsibilities, he argued that real growth in his budget proposals, excluding inflation and some expenditures, was slightly less than one per cent.

The United States, which contributes a quarter of the U.N. budget and is heavily in arrears, has its own serious budget problems which loom even larger as the 1992 election campaign approaches.

The new two-year budget for 1992-93 estimates regular expenditures at \$2.3 billion and another \$3 billion for peace-keeping and other specialised functions.

Without mentioning the United States by name, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said the main U.N. budget was \$528.5 million in arrears. Of this amount the United States owed 65 per cent or \$344.5 million, according to U.N. documents.

Washington also owes about \$100 million for peace-keeping operations.

IBM to cut 20,000 from workforce

ARMONK, New York (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp said Tuesday it was cutting another 20,000 jobs — nearly six per cent of its workforce — and taking a \$3 billion charge against earnings in the fourth quarter, slashing costs as it reshapes the basic way it works. Hampered by a worldwide slump and intense competition, the world's biggest computer maker has moved ahead on many fronts to improve its earnings in coming years.

IBM said the new cutbacks will save \$2 billion in 1992 and \$1 billion annually in the following years. The charge, however, will probably produce a loss for the fourth quarter and the full year, analysts predict.

In the first nine months of the year, IBM earned \$818 million, a drop of 77 per cent, even before the company took a \$2.26 billion charge for an accounting change related to retirement benefits.

IBM has given up its go-it-alone philosophy and linked up with former rivals jettisoned 20,000 workers this year even before Tuesday's cuts, and tried to infuse the company with a new competitive spirit.

"In recent years, IBM has taken important steps to improve efficiency and increase autonomy," Mr. Akers said. "Over the next few weeks, we will be disclosing measures that will significantly advance that process and will lead, over time to a fundamental redefinition of how IBM does business."

Bangladeshis end strike


DHAKA (R) — Columns of blocked trains, lorries and buses started rolling again in Bangladesh Wednesday at the end of a two-day countrywide strike by more than a million factory workers. But strike leaders threatened further disruption next month if the government goes ahead with privatisation plans. "Rail and road traffic resumed this morning but will take until tomorrow to become fully normal," a police officer said. Highway were still packed with vehicles. River ferries toiled to clear the backlog. Trains in some areas could not run because tracks had been ripped up by strikers. The blockade by over a million workers from state-run jute and textile mills, which began Monday morning, was called to denounce plans by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to privatise their factories. They were joined by tens of thousands of private sector mill workers demanding higher wages and benefits. Protesters blocked all major towns, industrial zones and ports from Monday morning. They tore up rail tracks, damaged trains and barricaded highways, stranding millions of people across the country.

A home (interior) ministry statement Tuesday accused the workers of "pursuing a politically motivated plan to destroy the economy."

Trade union leaders dismissed the charge, saying they were only trying to make the government accept realities and meet genuine demands.

The action council of jute and textile workers told reporters Tuesday night they would launch a 72-hour national blockade from Dec. 22 unless authorities met their demands.


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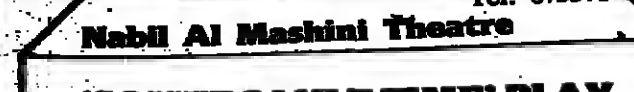
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Azerbaijan takes control of Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's parliament has voted to take control of the disputed Armenian-populated territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, casting a shadow over peace talks by leaders of the two republics set for Wednesday.

Soviet news agency (TASS) said deputies in the Azerbaijan capital Baku voted unanimously Tuesday to annul the autonomous status of the mountainous enclave, scene of a four-year guerrilla war in which almost 1,000 people have been killed.

The decision to take control of Nagorno-Karabakh — an autonomous region within Azerbaijan claimed by both republics — will worsen relations between the warring neighbours.

The vote appeared to mark a defeat for Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov, under pressure from nationalists to take firm action against Armenia.

He had told deputies before the vote in the republican capital Baku that the crisis should be solved peacefully.

Mr. Mutalibov and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian were due to meet in Moscow Wednesday to discuss how to defuse the latest row between the rival republics, sparked by the crash of a helicopter in Nagorno-Karabakh last week.

There was an immediate word from either republic on whether the talks would go ahead.

The Russian Information Agency said the deputies decided to annul the region's status because it would be more expedient economically and politically to rule it from Baku given the worsening situation in the republic.

Deputies also decided that Stepanakert, the region's capital, would revert to its historic name of Khankendi.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Monday proposed creating a 10 kilometre Soviet-patrol zone between Armenians and Azeris to ensure peace after tensions rose following the crash of the helicopter.

Azerbaijan accused Armenian gunmen of shooting down the aircraft. Armenia says it crashed in bad weather.

As Mr. Mutalibov addressed parliament, thousands demonstrated outside, demanding action against Armenia.

Parliament also voted to set up a national council, an executive body designed to govern the work of parliament.

Opposition deputies had demanded the creation of such a body to quicken the process of pushing through political and economic reforms.

TASS said the council would hold its first meeting Wednesday, but did not say how many members it would have or how it would function.

Latest reports from Stepanakert say Azeri gunmen have virtually cut off the town, where Soviet Interior Ministry troops sent in to stop the fighting are still stationed.

In 1989, after a year of fighting, Moscow assumed direct control

of the territory. It effectively returned the region to Baku's jurisdiction last year over furious Armenian protests.

The prospect of conflict also seemed imminent in the Georgian region of South Ossetia, which opposes the nationalist leadership's plans for secession.

More than 200 people have been killed in fighting this year between Ossetians and Georgians after Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia repealed the region's autonomy.

Interfax News Agency said the region's parliament had mobilised all men between 15 and 60 years old. It said Georgian armed units, armed with tanks, missiles and artillery, were reported to be converging on the region.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan will sign a union agreement with Moscow to help prevent the Soviet Union disintegrating, Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Avdi Kuliyev said Tuesday.

"Everything changes daily in the Soviet Union. The country is in chaos. We do not want to worsen this situation and disrupt Soviet unity," Mr. Kuliyev, an official visit to Turkey, told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

Mr. Kuliyev said Turkmenistan, where parliament voted for independence on Oct. 27, would sign the agreement despite failure to agree with other republics Monday.

The republic was one of seven which turned up to sign a union



Ayaz Mutalibov

treaty Monday. The ceremony was postponed and President Gorbachev said the republics were referring the draft back to their parliaments.

Mr. Kuliyev is holding trade and economic cooperation talks with Turkish officials ahead of a visit to Ankara by Turkmenistan President Saparmyrat Niyazov from Dec. 2 to 6.

"We have not asked Turkey to extend its official recognition. Our president's visit will be official, meaning we will have mutual and de facto recognition," he said.

He said his talks in Turkey had produced total agreement. "We understand each other completely. With Niyazov's visit, our relations will be elevated to a new level," he said.

Osijek attacked as Yugoslavia asks for U.N. help

BELGRADE (R) — Croatian radio said the town of Osijek came under fire Wednesday but a ceasefire appeared to hold in many other parts of Croatia after Yugoslavia asked the United Nations to launch a peacekeeping operation.

The radio said mortar shells, artillery and rockets fired from areas held by the federal army and Serbian irregulars pounded all parts of Osijek in eastern Croatia but the attacks eased towards dawn.

Serbian media carried no early reports of fighting and the 14th ceasefire in five months appeared to be holding.

In New York, Yugoslavia's United Nations Representative Darko Silovic handed a letter from the Yugoslav government to Security Council President Aurel Munteanu of Romania which he said asked for U.N. help.

"I have been instructed by my government to request the establishment of a peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia which reflects at the same time the expressed desire of the principal parties to the present conflict," he said.

"It is expected that the Security Council would be able to act promptly and take the necessary decision for the deployment of such an operation as soon as possible."

U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance is due to return to Yugoslavia within days to explore prospects of deploying peacekeeping troops.

The Serbian-led Yugoslav army and forces from the rival Republics of Serbia and Croatia have been fighting since Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in June and many of its 600,000 Serbs took up arms in rebellion.

Thousands of people have been killed but the latest ceasefire has revived fading peace hopes.

All sides say they want the U.N. to send in peacekeeping troops but disagree over where they should be deployed. The U.N. says a ceasefire must be in effect before troops are sent in.

The Security Council was expected to approve a resolution Wednesday backing Mr. Vance's mission and calling for strict compliance with the latest ceasefire, in force since Sunday.

A formal request by the Yugoslav government helps ease the doubts of non-aligned members of the Security Council about any action that might interfere in a country's internal affairs.

But one non-aligned diplomat said his group would probably propose some amendments to the resolution to be considered by the council Wednesday, in order not to make too strong an advance commitment to the dispatch of a U.N. force.

The easing in fighting since Sunday's ceasefire came into force has encouraged cautious optimism from European Community (EC) mediator Lord Carrington.

"You've got a chance of getting further (towards a political settlement) if you have a ceasefire and I think there's a chance of a ceasefire which is rather better than it was on any of the other occasions," Lord Carrington said Tuesday.

He told British television he was hopeful the EC would resume talks on Yugoslavia if the ceasefire held and the United Nations reached agreement with the warring sides to send in a peacekeeping.

Battered Khmer Rouge leaders flee Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, battered and bloodied by an angry mob, fled back to Thailand Wednesday just hours after returning to the Cambodian capital his fanatical revolutionaries ruled by terror in the 1970s.

Mr. Khieu Samphan left with Khmer Rouge defence chief Son Sen, who had been trapped with him for five hours in a Phnom Penh villa besieged by thousands of people demanding retribution for relatives who died under Khmer Rouge rule.

Hundreds of men, women and children, some armed with hatchets, stormed the villa shortly after Mr. Khieu Samphan arrived there on a morning flight from Bangkok. They began ransacking the house, trapping Mr. Khieu Samphan, Son Sen and other aides in an upstairs bedroom.

Eyewitnesses had got inside the house saw Khieu Samphan lying by a metal cupboard bleeding heavily from a head wound. He was surrounded by police and soldiers, only some of whom were trying to fend off dozens of angry attackers.

"I thought he was going to be torn apart, they were crazy in there," said veteran Indochina photographer Tim Page, a Briton.

An American photographer said the Khmer Rouge leader smiled up at him from the floor.

Mr. Khieu Samphan and Son Sen were eventually forced to hide inside the cupboard wearing steel helmets given by the soldiers, while their attackers strung a wire noose from a ceiling fan and hacked and pounded at the hiding place with hatchets and staves of wood.

Many onlookers thought Mr. Khieu Samphan would be killed. At one point before he emerged from the house, a man on the first floor balcony held up a bloody cabinet door to the cheering crowd below.

People of all ages buried tables, chairs, televisions and clothing, including two suit jackets down onto a huge pile of debris at the side of the house. Smoke billowed from burning debris in the compound.

People in the crowd, sweating with heat and rage, screamed "kill, kill, kill, kill him."

Many shouted that they had lost relatives under Khmer Rouge rule, during which more than a million Cambodians died.

Shortly before 2 p.m. (0700 GMT) Hun Sen, premier of the Vietnamese-installed government, and his defence chief General Tea Banh, arrived at the house and appealed for calm. The mob immediately began to leave.

An armoured car backed into the compound and at 2.35 p.m. (0735 GMT) Mr. Son Sen, Mr. Khieu Samphan and two other Khmer Rouge officials climbed on all fours up a ladder onto its roof and slipped inside through a hatch. They were without their jackets and ties.

Helmeted police and soldiers used riot shields to fend off rocks and shoes thrown by the crowd.

Until then the hundreds of police and soldiers around the house had appeared to do little to stop the violence.

"I can't do anything, the people are trying to get into the house and I can't stop them," said one young soldier.

Mr. Khieu Samphan, Mr. Son Sen and other members of their delegation were driven to Pochentong Airport and put aboard a special Kampuchea Airlines flight to Bangkok which left shortly after 4 p.m. (0900 GMT).

They were seen off at the airport by Mr. Hun Sen and Gen. Tea Banh.

The government issued a statement saying that while it understood the feelings of the people, it regretted that its efforts to persuade them against such incidents had failed.

Mr. Hun Sen said on Nov. 15 that he had received many requests to protest against the return of Khmer Rouge leaders, and that he had appealed for calm, fearing violence.

The government statement said it remained committed to peace accords it signed in Paris last month with the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla alliance that has fought to overthrow it for a decade.

Yoko Ono donates gifts for children of slain police

MIAMI (R) — Nearly 500 children of police killed in the line of duty will have their Christmas stockings filled with gifts from Yoko Ono, widow of pop singer John Lennon, a police organisation said.

Ms. Ono donated thousands of gifts for children of slain officers ranging from newborns to 18-year-olds through her New York arts firm and the estate of her husband, the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum said.

"When her husband was killed, Yoko's son Sean was left an orphan to be brought up by an incomplete family," said a spokesman for Ono's firm, Bag One Arts Inc. "So of course, Yoko has sympathy for those who, by tragedy, have been left in similar circumstances." When such children turn 18 they become eligible for thousands of dollars in scholarship funds disseminated through another programme of the American Police Hall of Fame.

The Christmas items — sweaters, T-shirts, totebags, address books, notebooks and diaries — all are decorated with artwork of or by Beatle Lennon, who was slain outside his Manhattan apartment on Dec. 8, 1980, the group said. The American Police Hall of Fame and Museum includes the nation's only memorial inscribed with names, ranks and department affiliations of nearly 4,000 slain police.

Seoul opposition stages sit-in in protest against ruling party

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's opposition members of parliament began a sit-in protest Wednesday after President Roh Tae-woo's ruling party forced disputed bills through parliament, an opposition spokesman said.

Fists flew Tuesday night as opposition politicians pushed and shoved ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) members, accusing them of railroaded through a series of late-night votes.

"The ruling party pushed through bills after making the decision solely on their own, without any discussions with us first," said a spokesman of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP), led by veteran politician Kim Dae-jung.

The spokesman said all of the DP's 75 lawmakers would continue the sit-in at the National Assembly until the ruling party apologised for its actions and announced the bills null and void.

"We have tried to be fair and to negotiate with the ruling party, but their actions show that they have betrayed us and the citizens," he said in a statement.

Home Affairs Committee Chairman Oh Han-koo was shoved in the face and pushed by opposition party members after he declared the passage of a controversial bill before midnight (1500 GMT) Tuesday, Yonhap

News Agency said.

But the punches and scuffles failed to prevent the DLP party from passing its bills.

They included one supporting the Civil Organisation Campaign for Righteous Life which opposition politicians argue will become a pro-government body during next year's elections. Another gives the go-ahead to developers on Cheju Island off the south coast of the peninsula.

South Korea is due to hold a general election in spring next year and presidential elections in late 1992.

The DLP controls more than 70 per cent of seats in the 299-member National Assembly.

Key Japan committee passes U.N. peace force bill

TOKYO (R) — The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ensured passage of bills allowing Japanese troops to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations when it railroaded them through a key parliamentary committee Wednesday.

An LDP-centrist alliance pushed the measures through a special lower house panel vote, making certain they would pass both full chambers by early next month, an LDP spokesman said.

It will be the first time since the end of World War II, and the defeated nation's adoption of a "peace constitution," that Japan has legislated to allow troops to serve overseas on active operations.

An LDP spokesman said the centrist Buddhist-backed Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) voted in favour while the Socialists and Communists opposed the package in the special lower house committee set up to discuss the bills.

The landmark vote was preceded by a brawl in the committee room as leftists rushed the chairman's desk and tried to stop proclamation of the vote.

Komeito and the DSP had demanded the measures stipulate that parliament must approve any overseas peacekeeping mission before it took place.

While opposing this provision, the LDP amended the bills to include a requirement for a report to parliament on the mission after the deployment ends.

Leftist opposition parties said the package violated the constitution, which bans the use of military force to settle international disputes.

The Socialists had submitted an alternative plan, rejected by the government, for civilian workers to substitute for soldiers in the peacekeeping role.

Premier Kiichi Miyazawa told parliament that U.N. peacekeeping operations did not represent the direct use of military force and therefore did not violate the constitution.

In fact, he said, the plan would enhance the preamble of the constitution which calls for resolving international conflicts through the U.N.

Mr. Miyazawa is now expected to order formation of a new lightly-armed 2,000-member army unit to be specially trained in such peacekeeping operations as ceasefire observation and election supervision, as well as in disaster relief.

One of the unit's first deployment could be to Cambodia next year.

The bills followed last year's failed attempt by Premier Toshiki Kaifu to send troops in a non-combat role to aid the U.S.-led coalition forces pitted against Iraq.

At the time, the country's powerful peace camp helped scrap the measure. Later, Japan made a \$13 billion contribution to the allied war effort.

Army chief: Troops had to shoot in East Timor

JAKARTA (R) — An unrepentant Indonesian army chief said Wednesday that his soldiers had been forced to shoot their "enemies" when they fired into a crowd of mourners in East Timor two weeks ago.

"It was a dangerous mob and forced the soldiers to take strong measures," General Tri Sutrisno told a packed parliamentary hearing which lasted four and a half hours.

He stuck with most of the army account, widely contradicted by witnesses, that 19 people were killed in the shooting on Nov. 12 in the former Portuguese colony. Other reports put the number of dead as high as 180.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told parliament Tuesday that Australian officials estimated 75 had died.

Most Indonesian newspapers Wednesday carried some of Mr. Evans's remarks but none mentioned his death toll.

Appearing confident and at times angry, Gen. Tri defended the army shooting as unavoidable after an armed mob attacked security officers trying to disperse them.

"It was the enemy's demonstration, the people's enemy. The purpose was very obvious ... they were carrying Fretilin's flag and Xanana's picture," said Gen. Tri, often named as the leading choice to eventually replace President Suharto.

The Fretilin Guerrillas, led by Xanana Gusmao, have been fighting Jakarta's rule since Indonesian troops swept into the territory in 1975 after the Portuguese colonists left. Jakarta's annexation of East Timor the following year has still not been recognised by the United Nations.

"And (foreign reports) said it was a peaceful demonstration ... what peaceful demonstration? It's bullshit," Gen. Tri said in English, clearly aiming his remarks at foreign reporters in the gallery.

He said five foreigners in the provincial capital Dili, including journalists not based in Indonesia, had been actively involved in the anti-Indonesian demonstration.

"The presence of (them) ... long before and during the incident, their aims and activities, are suspicious," the 56-year-old general told a hushed audience.

A New Zealand student was among those killed.

Gen. Tri showed photographs of the incident, one of them showing the journalists, whom he accused of pretending to be tourists, near a Dili church.

"Hiding your identity is in violation of immigration rules and the international ethic of journalists. It's not impossible they were involved in the engineering of the incident or being used by the anti-Indonesian sides."

3 young boys admit plot to kill 11-year-old

MONTEREY, California (R) — Three primary school boys, ages 13 and 14, pleaded guilty to plotting to kill an 11-year-old student at Monterey's Walter Colton middle school. In a 30-minute juvenile court hearing in this quiet seaside town, the boys pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit voluntary manslaughter, a crime that could put them in youth prison for a maximum of 11 years. The boys were originally charged with a sterner crime of conspiracy to commit murder after police arrested 10 boys at the school. The other seven youngsters were charged with possession of a .22-calibre handgun on campus and suspended from school. According to police, the plot developed following a shoving match that broke up a basketball game on the school grounds.

Addams Family film scores ghoulish success in U.S.

HOLLYWOOD, California (R) — The Addams Family, based on the ghoulish characters of cartoonist Charles Addams, grossed a seasonal record \$24.2 million at U.S. cinemas in its opening weekend, Paramount Pictures said. The film, starring Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston as the elegantly creepy couple Gomez and Morticia, opened on Nov. 22 in 2,411 American cinemas. Paramount said three-day box office receipts for The Addams Family were the highest ever for an autumn film opening in the United States. The strong showing for the film featuring characters from a popular U.S. television series in the 1960s was a bright spot in an otherwise lacklustre season in Hollywood. Other recent films in Hollywood have not fared as well. Billy Bathgate, a Touchstone Pictures film based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow and starring Dustin Hoffman, has had slow ticket sales despite a reported \$40 million price tag. Paramount has had its own share of disappointments. Frankie and Johnny, with Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer, recently failed to ignite audiences. Most studios are saving their big movies for the Christmas season. Paramount will release Star Trek VI later this month.

Man pays a fortune for just one penny

LONDON (R) — A man paid £25,000 (\$41,000) for an old British penny at an auction in London, the most ever paid for the humble coin. The penny, sold by coin specialists to an anonymous collector, was minted in 1954 when on pennies were issued for circulation. Only a few were minted for tests. The pennies, bearing the head of the new Queen Elizabeth who was crowned in 1953, should have all been destroyed. But auctioneers Spink and Sons said this was the one which survived. The sale broke the record set for a penny at auction four years ago when a 1933 coin was auctioned for £15,000 (\$27,000).

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. poll shows narrow Labour lead

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party is clinging to a narrow lead over Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives despite rifts in the ruling party over Europe, according to the latest opinion poll. The Daily Mail/ICM Poll showed a Labour lead of two points over the Conservatives on 41 to 39 per cent respectively — the same gap as a month ago — though both parties were down one point. The Liberal Democrats rose three points to 16 per cent. The poll of 1,470 people suggested Mr. Major had suffered little damage from a bitter Conservative row over his policies on European union. Mr. Major was embroiled in a dispute with his predecessor Margaret Thatcher over whether to hold a referendum on European Monetary Union. Mr. John rejected the idea and plans to push on with talks with other European Community leaders next month. Opinion polls have taken on increasing importance in recent months with financial markets jittery over the state of the parties ahead of elections Mr. Major must call by next June. Labour has had a slight lead in most recent polls, but has yet to build a lead large enough to promise outright victory in a general election. If the results of the Daily Mail poll were reflected in an election it would mean on party had a clear majority in parliament.

U.K. drafts more troops to N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Britain announced Wednesday it was sending an extra battalion of troops into Northern Ireland where sectarian attacks have killed 86 people this year. Defence Minister Tom King, meeting frontline officers in the province where Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas are battling to oust British, said up to 600 soldiers would be drafted in. Earlier this month, Britain put almost 2,000 extra troops on the streets of Northern Ireland. Mr. King said the extra-battalion was being sent in at the request of Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke. Security chiefs fear the IRA and Protestant extremists who are fighting out an increasingly bloody sectarian civil war could step up violence before Christmas. Police say Protestant extremists are better organised and armed than ever before. They have killed 34 Catholics this year compared to 11 last year. An extra murder squad has been set up in North Belfast to track down the sectarian killer gangs. Activists on both sides of the sectarian divide are being kept under close surveillance.

Former CIA official indicted

WASHINGTON (R) — Former top CIA official Duane Clarridge was indicted on seven felony charges stemming from the sale of missiles to Iran as part of the Iran-contra operation. The indictment, handed up by a federal grand jury, alleges that former White House aide Oliver North enlisted Mr. Clarridge's help in November 1985 in getting U.S. Hawk missiles through Israel to Iran. Mr. Clarridge, who was then chief of European operations for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is charged with lying to congressional investigators and making false statements to the presidential Tower Commission which probed the operation. The indictment alleges that Mr. Clarridge helped Col. North by finding a CIA-linked airline to carry the shipment of missiles, by directing CIA officers overseas to assist and by letting Col. North coordinate the shipment from Mr. Clarridge's CIA office. The missiles were delivered to Iran on or about Nov. 25, 1985, according to the office of independent counsel which has been investigating the Iran-contra affair. If convicted on all counts, Mr. Clarridge could face 35 years in prison and up to \$1.75 million in fines.

Italy to re-shape forces to meet NATO strategy

ROME (R) — In a drastic overhaul of Italy's defence policy, military chiefs plan to cut the armed forces by a quarter and create a hard core of professionals to fit in with new NATO strategy.

The plan before parliament would give Italy's forces a foreign role for the first time since their defeat in World War II and adapt them to meet the Atlantic alliance's need for multinational rapid-reaction troops.

Under the proposal submitted to the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) by Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni, the armed forces would be stripped of 90,000 men, about a quarter of current strength, and based on a new core of professional soldiers.

"The aim of our new defence model is to allow for a significant contribution in terms of fast reaction," Mr. Rognoni told the chamber's Defence Committee Wednesday.

"It's a real and original change in the future structure of NATO, made up of highly mobile and flexible units," he said.

Mr. Rognoni wants the army to be based on five brigades — some 50,000 men — of professionals ready to be called up by NATO's rapid-reaction forces for intervention outside Italy.

At present the bulk of the 330,000 members of Italian Armed Forces are conscripts who serve for 12 months. The length of national service would not change.

Apart from the para-military Carabinieri Police, only a handful of elite units use professionals. The predominantly conscript army is the fruit of the post-war constitution whose authors feared a professional army could threaten democracy.

Mr. Rognoni's plan stands for falls on parliament's vote of funds to finance it. "We need extraordinary backing, in the order of 40 trillion lire (\$33 billion) over the next 10 years," he said.

South African whites likely to reject reforms in by-election

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Whites in South Africa's right-wing heartland vote Thursday in a by-election expected to demonstrate resounding rejection of moves towards non-racial government.

"The Conservative Party (CP) is going to walk it," said political analyst Wim Booysse. "The only question is by how much."

The CP, the official opposition in the white house of parliament, has predicted it will win the rural Orange Free State constituency of Virginia by up to 3,000 votes.

In the last general election in 1989, the National Party (NP) of President F.W. de Klerk won the seat by just 47 votes.

Political commentators say the poll will indicate the extent of right-wing white opposition to Mr. de Klerk as he prepares for talks with the black opposition on a non-racial constitution.

The by-election is being held on the eve of talks between the government, the African National Congress (ANC), the Inkatha Freedom Party and other groups on arrangements for a multi-party conference on power-sharing due to start in December.

Mr. de Klerk, who has promised to let whites vote on constitutional plans drawn up at the conference, said this week he was confident of winning such a referendum.

"If we were to present proposals which can assure long-term stability, offering full participation to all South Africans but ensuring there will be no suppression of minorities, I am sure that I will comfortably win a referendum," he said.

But political scientist Henrman Gilmore said the National Party was struggling to hold its support base together.

"Well-placed observers and analysts are convinced that the de Klerk government is close to losing majority support for its constitutional initiatives," he said. "Resistance among whites to even sharing power is no longer confined to the right wing."

Mr. Booysse said that for the Virginia result to ring alarm bells for Mr. de Klerk, the CP would need to win by at least 3,500 votes.

"If the margin is 3,000, it means the NP could just win a referendum," Virginia has about 23,000 registered voters.

Politics lecturer Albert Venter agreed. "I expect the NP to lose Virginia, but I think de Klerk is right when he says he would win a referendum."